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ON SATURDAY
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TUNBRIDGE WELLS

The newspaper that's just 'SO' Tunbridge Wells
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COMPLIMENTARY

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S PAPER

PROPERTY Review
Planning a move?
Our property guide is the place to look

OUR SCHOOL WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED

Vision of new academy was under threat, says headteacher

EXCLUSIVE

By JENNA PUDELEK

A HEADTEACHER has revealed how failure to get vital government funding for new buildings could have put the very existence of a major secondary school at risk.

Education Secretary Michael Gove announced that the Skinners' Kent Academy in Tunbridge Wells was one of only two academies in the county to get the go-ahead for new, state-of-the-art facilities – giving the thumbs up to an ambitious £21m building programme.

And this week Sian Carr, the school's principal, told this newspaper it could have spelt the end if the proposals had been turned down.

"If it had not happened it would have been hard for the school to survive," she said. "We have transformed the school now, the next steps would have been the new building.

"It was very much part of the vision and we would have had to rethink our plans.

"Now, it means we can go full steam ahead. It is not completely about the building, it is about creating the right culture.

"But if we provide them with first class facilities then it enhances that even further."

The academy replaced Tunbridge Wells High School in September last year and was one of only two academies in Kent to be granted permission for their new buildings to go ahead.

Picture: WWW.JOELCHANT.COM

School principal Sian Carr is relieved the Skinners' Kent Academy development has been granted the cash to go ahead with its £21m building programme

Michael Gove, the Education Secretary, announced that a further six schools, including the Knole Academy in Sevenoaks, which is due to open this September, will have to wait until the public spending review concludes in October before knowing whether their new build projects will be funded.

However, a national newspaper said Whitehall sources believed that building plans for 75 of the schools were being axed because the Government could not afford it.

"It is very important for this particular academy to have that fresh start, given all the history of the previous school, which a new building will give it," Mrs Carr said.

"It is interesting because we have parents of prospective pupils who went to the school before, who say it is hard to come here because of their own memories.

"It is about having a fresh start and proving that will emphasise that it is not just about a new school, which is very important, but also about creating a set of amenities for the whole community.

"Enhancing sports facilities, indoor and outdoor, is a very important part of our vision for both the staff and our sponsors."

Meanwhile, it is a far tougher story in Sevenoaks, where the academy – which replaces Bradbourne and Wildernesse schools – will open next month amidst uncertainty over whether plans for its new building, which was due to cost between £20m and £30m, will go ahead.

Michael Fallon, the MP for Sevenoaks, would not accept defeat and said he would keep the pressure on by continuing to fight for the academy's new building.

"Getting this funding is my number one priority," he said. "I'm continuing to press ministers to commit to what was agreed. Parents supported the new academy on the basis of the new building, and that's what we must have."

Mrs Carr said: "It is horrible, some of those

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Navigator's tale is 'exceptional'

AN RAF navigator who plotted safe routes for Sir Winston Churchill and King George VI as they flew to official duties during the Second World War will sign copies of his biography at a Battle of Britain anniversary event next month.

The life story of Air Commodore John Mitchell, which is titled Churchill's Navigator, has been penned by Sean Feast.

Both the war hero and the author will attend the Battle of Britain 70th anniversary concert at Churchill's former home Chartwell, near Westerham, on September 4, from 3pm.

A spokesman for the publisher said: "His is an exceptional story, told with wit and verve to acclaimed author Sean Feast, who has added his usual authoritative and informed insights."

Anyone wanting to reserve a signed copy of the book, which costs £20 plus post and packaging, should contact The Aviation Bookshop in Vale Road, Tunbridge Wells, by calling 01892 539284 or alternatively emailing info@aviation-bookshop.com.

Funding puts academy on track for 2012

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

schools have not even opened and it will be testing times for those schools, so I feel for them."

In his letter to MPs and schools, Mr Gove said: "We will be releasing capital now for Isle of Sheppey Academy and the Skinners' Kent Academy projects, where we understand that preparation for building work is at a particularly advanced stage."

The other schools now face an agonising wait and their projects will be scrutinised to see if costs and bureaucracy can be reduced to make them more cost effective.

Mrs Carr said everything would be done to keep the building on track to open in 2012.

Kent County Council's cabinet member for education, Cllr Sarah Hohler added: "I am pleased that the funding has been confirmed for the Isle of Sheppey Academy and Skinners' Kent Academy.

"The new buildings and facilities will now go ahead as originally planned. This is a momentous decision for these two academies and the investment will transform education for generations to come.

"We are hopeful that along with the rest of Kent's school building investment needs, the other six academies will be looked upon favourably as part of the government spending review. We will continue to work alongside the sponsors of those academies to make a compelling case for the capital investment."

Bluesmobile drives by on the way to theatre

By **JAMES BENJAMIN**
westkent@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE of the original iconic cars used in the cult movie the Blues Brothers will be driving into Tunbridge Wells town centre today (Saturday).

The Bluesmobile will be making a special visit to promote the upcoming stage production which hits the Assembly Hall Theatre later this month.

What's more, fans will be able to nab a family ticket to the opening night with a special giveaway running every hour.

The Blues Brothers was originally created as a sketch on US comedy show Saturday Night Live by comedians Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi.

The duo then made a film featuring the characters – and a host of classic blues and soul songs – in 1980.

Only a modest success on its release, it proved something of a slowburner, eventually reaching its popularity peak over some years as sales of videos rocketed – fuelled in part by Belushi's death in 1982.

Since then, a number of tribute shows regularly tour theatres featuring the songs made famous by the film.

Now a group producing what they call the Original Tribute to the Blues Brothers is bringing the musical to the town's theatre for a short run from Tuesday to Saturday, August 24-28.

To highlight the shows, the Bluesmobile – one of the cars used in the original movie and signed by two of the original band members – will be touring Tunbridge Wells this weekend.

From 11am it will be playing well-loved songs from the movie and musical.

The car will then park up in the town centre precinct where fans can have their picture taken dressed in sunglasses and trilby. What's more, the photos will be displayed in the theatre throughout the production.

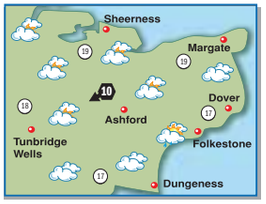
Between noon and 3pm, one lucky family every hour will be chosen at random to win a family ticket to see the show on the opening night, Tuesday, August 24.

The promotion for the show doesn't end there either. In the days leading up to the show, the Assembly Hall will be lit entirely in blue for the first time to build up our anticipation levels.

Morgan Jones, chief electrician at the Assembly Hall said: "I am very excited about this project – hopefully we can look to do similar things for other shows in the future."

BE COOL: Members of the public will be able to pose for photos next to the Bluesmobile, which is one of the original vehicles that appeared in the cult classic 80s film

Weather



Today

Saturday will be bright with sunny intervals, but also a fair amount of cloud and a scattering of showers, some of these on the heavy side. Showers dying away through the evening. A light to moderate east to north-easterly wind. Cool with below normal temperatures. Max temp 17-20C (63-68F).

Sun & Moon

Sunrise	5.38am	Sunset	8.21pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	11.48am	Moonset	9.37pm	8.21pm to 5.40am

High Tides

	today		tomorrow	
	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)
Dover	02.35 6.8	14.54 7.0	03.18 6.5	15.36 6.7
Margate	03.44 4.9	15.51 5.1	04.29 4.7	16.35 4.9
St Mary's	08.24 5.7	20.44 5.7	09.06 5.4	21.27 5.3

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	16	61	Edinburgh	cloudy	17	63	Newcastle	drizzle	16	61
Belfast	fair	18	64	Glasgow	fair	18	64	Norwich	shwrs	20	68
B'ham	rain	19	66	Isle of Man	fair	18	64	Oxford	shwrs	19	66
B'mouth	shwrs	18	64	Leeds	shwrs	16	61	Southsea	shwrs	20	68
Bristol	shwrs	18	64	London	shwrs	20	68	S'hampton	shwrs	18	64
Cardiff	fair	19	66	Liverpool	cloudy	19	66	Southport	fair	19	66
Cork	fair	19	66	Manchester	shwrs	19	66	Swansea	fair	19	66

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Manor house is thought to have been Eisenhower's base

Love nest rumour worth buying into

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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A MANOR house said to be where General Eisenhower conducted an illicit affair with his driver-cum-secretary has gone on the market for £1,450,000.

Toll Manor in Hadlow Down, near Crowborough, was believed to be the weekend home to the Supreme Commander of the Allied forces during the Second World War and where he planned the D-Day invasion.

But local rumours, passed down through the generations, have it that the presence of the man who would go on to be 34th President of the United States was kept top secret because he was also using the house as a love nest with Kay Summersby.

The alleged tryst was kept under wraps until after both their deaths, when details emerged in Summersby's 1975 autobiography, which was ghost-written while she was dying of cancer.

So it is unknown for sure whether Eisenhower took a break from planning Operation Overload – the Allied assault on the coast of Normandy in June 1944 – to frolic around in Toll Manor's eight and a half acres of grounds and gardens with his mistress.

STORY: Legend has it that Gen Eisenhower met with his mistress at Toll Manor

It was certainly a stressful time for the supreme commander because although the D-Day landings led to the eventual liberation of Europe, the timing and location of the assault needed such precision that the operation was surrounded by uncertainty.

Estate agent Michael Gabriel, from Green Lizard, said that locally it is thought Eisenhower rented the house from a general in the British Army who owned it, so he would have somewhere to stay in England to plan the invasion.

"He also used the house as his love nest as he had begun a romantic affair with Kay Summersby, something that remained a well kept secret until after his death in 1969," he said.

Eisenhower's doubts about the success of the operation in the face of a highly-defended and well-prepared enemy led him to consider what would happen if the invasion of Normandy failed.

If the Allies did not secure a strong foothold on D-Day they would be ordered to retreat and he would have had to make a speech he had already drafted for the occasion, perhaps while sitting in the study at Toll House.

He wrote: "Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops.

"My decision to attack at this time and place was based on the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone."

But the landings were a success and the BBC was able to broadcast a different speech.

Now, the manor, described by the estate agents as a "wonderful 16th century country house", has been put on the market after being renovated over the past five years by the current owners.

• ***Turn to Property Review inside this paper for more details on this and many other great homes currently on the market.***

Give your old pens to a worthy cause

YOUNGSTERS are being urged to recycle their old stationery during the summer holidays to help African schools.

Last year Staples launched a campaign to provide African schoolchildren with recycled pens, pencils and pencil cases donated by British pupils – and UK children really rose to the challenge.

This summer, the Staples Back to School Swapsies campaign hopes to collect even more.

Local store boss Nick Stephens said: "We think nothing of throwing away our unwanted stationery, but to some children, even having a pencil and a working pen is often a struggle."

Children who recycle their unwanted stationery in the new Fountains Retail Park store in Tunbridge Wells will also receive a £1 voucher that can then be used in-store.

Free cat neutering

AN ANIMAL welfare charity will hold a free cat neutering clinic in Tonbridge next month for owners receiving state benefits.

The mobile clinic will be at the Angel Centre car park in the town on Friday, September 17.

The west Kent branch of the RSPCA has organised the free neutering sessions for cat owners living in Tonbridge, Borough Green, Sevenoaks and West Kingsdown to help reduce the numbers of unwanted kittens.

Anyone interested in attending can book by calling 01732 866850 between 9am and 6pm.

Homes go-ahead

CONSTRUCTION work is set to begin on five detached new homes in a village near Sevenoaks this autumn.

Sevenoaks District Council granted the developers, Hillreed Homes, planning permission for the properties at Spring Head Road, Kemsing.

Jo Richards, marketing and corporate manager, said: "This is an excellent, semi-rural location, within easy reach of commuter trains at nearby Otford and Sevenoaks stations."

Football hero returns home after collapsing

WORLD Cup winner George Cohen was recovering at home this week after collapsing at a charity function, ***writes Jon Coates***.

Shocked guests watched the England 1966 hero pass out moments after arriving at a restaurant in Worcestershire, where he was due to officially open a sporting heroes exhibition on Friday, August 6.

Mr Cohen, pictured, 70, who lives in Crowborough, was taken to hospital in an ambulance and kept in overnight under observation.

But the former England and Fulham star, who has survived bowel cancer three times, was discharged the next day and allowed to return to his country home to recover.

At the start of this week his agent Andrew Morris said: "George was taken ill on Friday. It has happened before when he hasn't eaten enough and has been on his feet all day.

"He was kept in hospital, which was the sensible thing to do and is now recovering at home. He is fine."

Mr Cohen, who was the right-back in the only England team to lift the World Cup, back in 1966, had attended a Champagne reception at Worcester Cathedral earlier in the day, where he met the bishop, dean and mayor of the city.

He then went on to the charity dinner at the Glasshouse in Sidbury, Worcestershire, where he had been due to unveil the exhibition of sporting memorabilia.

But the guests could only look on as he collapsed minutes after arriving at the venue and was then helped out into an ambulance, which had been called to take him to Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

Richard Callicott, the former chief executive of UK Sport who is now a trustee of the British Paralympic Association, stepped in to officially open the exhibition in place of the football hero.

What better way to sum up our August Sale?

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Rachel's pledge over policing excellence in her new role

By JON COATES
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE of the most senior female police officers in the county has been appointed the new deputy area commander for west Kent.

Superintendent Rachel Adams will start her new role, based at Tonbridge Police Station, on Monday, September 13.

She moves to the west of the county after a stint working at Kent Police headquarters in Maidstone as the support officer to the Chief Constable.

Supt Adams, who lives in west Kent, has 20 years' experience with Kent Police and has worked in numerous roles across the county's policing areas.

She said: "I'm absolutely delighted to be taking up the deputy commander position at west Kent.

"As someone who lives here I believe our primary focus has to be delivering an excellent service to the public. The public are what matters.

Standards

"The way we conduct our business must include the fundamental issue of standards and ethical policing. This should be the common thread throughout our service and how we deliver it."

Superintendent Dave Cooper, who had filled the deputy area commander role on a temporary basis for the last five months since Chief Superintendent Tony Thomas was promoted to area commander, is moving on to a new role at the force HQ in Maidstone.

Supt Cooper will be part of the focus programme reviewing all aspects of the force to make sure it delivers the same service while being prepared for cuts in funding after the Government's public spending review in the autumn.

He had previously been the district chief for Sevenoaks and Swanley for 10 months. Chief Inspector Adrian Futers, who took on this role on a temporary basis when Supt Cooper took on the deputy area commander post, has now been made the permanent district chief.

DAVE COOPER

TONY THOMAS

Supt Cooper said: "I returned to west Kent 15 months ago as the district commander for Sevenoaks and spent the last five months as the deputy area commander for west Kent.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed both roles but the greatest impression left on me has been the exceptional response from everyone and the willingness to deliver the best service."

The re-structuring process was started when area commander Chief Superintendent Mark Salisbury quit the force in May to take charge of managing the security in Kent for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

He is now the county's Olympic resilience manager based at County Hall in Maidstone and will be responsible for co-ordinating the emergency services responses to potential incidents in Kent before, during and after the Games being staged in London in less than two years.

Mr Salisbury's deputy, Supt Thomas, was originally promoted to area commander for an interim period, but has now been given the role on a permanent basis.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

NO ENTRY: Security and roadblock at Rolex

Caravans denied Rolex HQ access

TRAVELLERS have clashed with security guards after being barred from joining an illegal camp next to the new multi-million European headquarters of Rolex.

Twenty-five caravans drove onto a four-acre site next to the base of the luxury watch company in Jubilee Way at Kings Hill, West Malling, on Friday, August 6.

Nine left immediately after being told by security firm Precreate Solutions a court order for eviction was being processed.

But another 20 caravans tried to force their way on to the illegal camp on Tuesday at 5pm, leading to violent scenes when they were turned away. Travellers threatened security staff and damaged barriers set up to stop more caravans getting on to the site.

A witness, who did not want to be named, said: "The travellers made violent threats to security staff and were extremely intimidating. Most didn't get in but said they would be coming back."

The police were called during stand-offs between the travellers and security on Tuesday and Wednesday. Security teams are using mobile patrols with dog units to stop more travellers getting to the illegal camp and have built a roadblock at its entrance.

They are allowing cars and pedestrians in, but caravans will not be allowed to pass. About 17 caravans and 50 travellers remained on site at the time of going to press. A court order for eviction has been applied for.

Curtain closing on bids as cinema site deadline nears

REEL TIME: Bids for the old ABC cinema site must be submitted by Monday

THE deadline for bids for the former ABC cinema site in Tunbridge Wells will pass on Monday.

Property agent Savills has been marketing the derelict site, on the corner of Mount Pleasant Road and Church Road, since May.

It originally put the prime development site on the open market for unconditional offers in excess of £8 million.

But after we revealed how engineering complications in the building – which is above a railway tunnel leading to the town's station – could potentially add millions to the cost of any development, it is believed lower bids or offers with conditions will be accepted.

Savills said there had been a lot of interest in the cinema site, which has become an eyesore at the heart of Tunbridge Wells since being closed 10 years ago.

And last week we exclusively revealed that the leaders of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council were preparing an audacious last-minute bid to buy the former ABC site before the deadline closes.

Simon Hume Kendall, owner of Bewl Water and Lamberhurst Vineyards, has also expressed an interest in snapping up the prime site.

Council chiefs had kept the details of their offer close to their chest to avoid a bidding war, but the final decision to go ahead with trying to buy the site was made at a meeting of the cabinet on July 29.

The full details of the bid were made exempt from the public record and it was recorded as an unnamed "potential property acquisition".

The Conservative-led council decided to bid for the site after carrying out a wide-ranging risk assessment to avoid burdening taxpayers with a property that could become a white elephant.

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THE INTERVIEW

BY JANE CONNOLLY

Making it her business to chill you out

MAKING the move from precious metals to massage has been a fulfilling one for spa owner Shelly Murphy.

The former jewellery designer opened the Royal Day Spa in Tunbridge Wells five years ago, after spending time advising other people on their health and fitness businesses. Originally she trained at the former Kent Institute of Art and Design in Rochester and won a number of awards for her jewellery, before her life began to take a different path.

"I needed to get a job to pay the bills and I started working for a chap who did consultancy, then I set up on my own and travelled far and wide, helping to set up businesses and helping with their marketing," she said. "It was mostly health and fitness, but I got fed up and wanted to stay at home."

Shelly, 34, bought a house in Ticehurst and decided to look in the local area for business premises. "Tunbridge Wells was a local stamping ground for me, as I was born and went to school in Sevenoaks," she said. "I had been looking at the building in Tunbridge Wells previously for a client, but the sale had not happened. So it was really the building that decided it – it's useful for me because it's in the right area and next to the station."

It took two years to complete the purchase of the building and a further eight months to carry out the interior work, but in 2005 the Royal Day Spa finally opened its doors. Shelly is a trained Reiki master and the natural healing system is used in all the spa's treatments.

When the recession began a few years later, Shelly – whose brother is fine art and commercial photographer, Spencer Murphy – did not feel the effects straight away.

"I have a friend who has a shop on the corner and we both used to say, a bit under our breath, 'everyone's going on about how awful it is, but everything's fine'," she said. "But all of a sudden, the bottom fell out. It's been hard work, but it's just me. I was only in my 20s when I set it up so I didn't have millions of pounds behind me. I was used to struggling, so it was just more of that really."

In order to successfully combat the financial climate, Shelly took a good look at the image of the spa.

"We changed the marketing and the way that we sold ourselves. Basically, we made it more accessible for people. It was a mistake that it came across as a kind of elitist spa. It was not meant to be like that and it's not me."

Despite the recession, she has found that people still value a little luxury even when they are feeling the pinch elsewhere.

"Our style of treatments tends to work on more of an emotional level and they do really make people feel nice when they leave."

For details, visit www.royal-dayspa.co.uk or call 01892 616191.

SO NEAR SO SPA: After two changes of career Shelly Murphy can now relax

Over-60s were born to be wild

Why an adventure holiday is the new trip

By JENNA PUDELEK
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THE growing popularity of 'experience' holidays among the over-60s has been put down to the adventurous attitude of the generation that came of age in the Swinging Sixties.

Gary Wardrope, who owns a travel agency in Tunbridge Wells, said he had been amazed by the increasing number of requests from well-travelled, affluent people in the 50 to 70-plus age group who wanted to do something different with their free time and go 'off the beaten track'.

The Canadian ski racer, who has travelled around the world himself before launching a specialist cruise company based in the Pantiles, said: "The idea came from my existing customers to be honest.

"We set up Get Cruising three years ago, which broadly speaking caters for the 50-plus age group.

"They would say the cruise was great but now I want to go to Timbuktu or the Galapagos.

"I launched the site because people wanted to do things like see the Northern Lights, that has been really popular. We've had 24 bookings this year.

"It is pretty much retired people who just inspired me to think this is where the market is. Our society is getting older and we have got the money, the attitude and desire to do something difference."

Mr Wardrope, who is no stranger to adventure and has climbed part of Everest, said experience was everything and mattered more than the destination for the older adventurer.

Popular trips included wine tasting or cooking, and adventures from camping under the stars in Egypt to the more extreme Everest Base Camp.

TRAVEL BUG: Specialist travel agency www.get-lost.co.uk organises adventure trips to see things like (from left) the Northern Lights, Machu Picchu, or like Richard Jones, a desert safari, which a new phenomenon for the over-60s who want to live life to the full

He said trips to spiritual locations of all religions were popular too such as India and the Middle East. "It is about culture, food and activity not really the destination," he said.

But the older traveller he caters for are not roughing it in youth hostels with gap year students, he said: "Yes they want their creature comforts. One couple just came back from Bedouin camping in Egypt, they did a little bit of camel trekking and then got in a 4x4 and were taken to their tent where they had Champagne waiting."

Asked what he puts this new phenomenon down to, Mr Wardrope said: "I think it is a function of what has happened. They grew up in the 1950s and 1960s. They were in their 20s in the 1960s; they saw things like the protests and the Beatles, the love and peace attitude. And that attitude is still with them, but now they have money.

"The physical side has changed but then people are healthier. But I've also found that many have had a friend with cancer or they may have had cancer themselves and they want to do something to really taste life.

"They are not just sitting on the kids' inheritance."

He said his new business www.get-lost.co.uk is the first retail brand in the UK that features all the major adventure companies under one roof.

More examples of recent trips include Machu Picchu, China, Vietnam and desert safaris where people have indulged themselves in new experiences and learning.

One traveller Audrey Young, 81, has just booked a Northern Lights experience, a night in the Snow Hotel and a dog sled ride. She said she is travelling alone but is looking forward to meeting people on her trip.

Richard Jones, 48, from Sevenoaks, recently went on a desert safari. He said: "After many years of doing fun family holidays, the kids have now flown the nest and it was time for my wife and I to do some real adventures for ourselves.

"We booked a western desert tour and travelled through this amazing desert landscape in a 4x4 and then trekking by camel, followed by sleeping under the stars in our Bedouin camp.

"It was an unforgettable experience."

Picture: SMOOTHE LIMITED 2003

FUTURE: Computer-generated images of how the new Pembury hospital will look

Birth of a new style of care

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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AHEAD of major changes to the way maternity services are provided for mothers-to-be across our region, a top doctor has explained why they are vital.

The Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has approved the highly controversial proposals to centralise consultant-led women's and children's services at the new private finance initiative hospital (PFI) at Pembury when it opens in July next year.

As a result Maidstone Hospital would have a midwife-led birthing unit, the first in west Kent.

The NHS in west Kent must now address the concerns raised by Kent County Council's health overview and scrutiny committee and health campaigners in the county town, who are concerned over the switch.

These include the impact of pregnant women from Maidstone having to travel the extra distance to Pembury.

Objectors in Maidstone feel their hospital is being downgraded, but health bosses have argued that continuing to provide full services from both sites is not sustainable.

Dr Wilson Bolsover, clinical director for women's and children's services at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, said: "As a clinician myself and Gillian Duffy, who is head of midwifery, we are absolutely sure this is safe. But it is also safer and better than trying to carry on with what we are doing at present.

"We absolutely recognise that it is less convenient for people who live in the Maidstone locality, but we are minimising that by making sure clinic appointments and scans are still going on in the area.

"The only difference is that for the actual birth they would need to come to Pembury or if there were serious complications with the pregnancy they should be an inpatient at Pembury.

"Antenatal scans and midwifery visits will all be carrying on close to home exactly as at present."

Campaigners believe Maidstone is being overlooked in favour of the new state-of-the-art hospital at Pembury.

But Dr Bolsover, a consultant paediatrician, said it was because pregnant woman in the Maidstone area had the option of travelling to the nearby William Harvey Hospital in Ashford or the Medway Maritime in an emergency as well as Pembury.

"I recognise that it's a cause for concern to be further away from hospital but I do not think it is less safe. If we were to try and continue the services at both sites it would become less safe," he said.

"The focus has been on travelling times but actually it is not a great issue."

Women in Tunbridge Wells and further out to the south and west in the area of East Sussex covered by the trust do not have another option within half and hour. He said patients should be within half an hour of one of the three hospitals.

A spokesman for NHS West Kent said: "SECAmb [the South East Ambulance Trust] has confirmed that any transfer carried out between units would be done with the necessary medical staff from the hospital to support the needs of the patient.

"This includes the specialist neonatal retrieval team which has all the necessary equipment and space to transfer high dependency babies and does so now."

There have also been complaints that women will not have as much choice.

But the local NHS argues that women in west Kent will have access to a midwifery-led birthing unit for the first time.

"The birthing centre is essentially a kind of home from home environment," Dr Bolsover said. "It is a low tech system monitored by midwives and if there was any cause for concern the mother would be moved to an obstetrics unit exactly the same if she were having a home delivery.

"It is a choice. If they want to know there is medical help available they wouldn't opt for the birth unit. Plenty of women feel giving birth is a normal, natural thing that does not need doctors and midwives are very good at delivering babies."

Women were supposed to have access to a range of birthing options including at home, in a birth centre or an obstetric unit by the end of 2009. But a recent study by the National Childcare Trust found that only 4.2per cent of women have access to the full range of options.

The NCT said that women who gave birth in home-like centres with one-to-one midwife support were less likely to need pain relief, less likely to have babies with problems during labour and more satisfied with the care they received.

High quality

Maternity services need to be split across the two hospital sites to ensure that both the midwifery care and consultant-led care provided was of the highest quality, Dr Bolsover argued.

He said that at the moment, under special permission from the Department of Health, doctors at Maidstone and Pembury were allowed to work 56 hours a week instead of the 48 set under the European Working Time Directive.

The EU law was brought in because doctors were working 80 to 90 hours a week, which meant patient care suffered because tired doctors made mistakes.

But it has meant that twice as many doctors are needed to fill hospital rotas and they are not getting as much experience.

"The problem that causes is that if doctors are working fewer hours it reduces their exposure and experience," Dr Bolsover said. "It reduces the opportunity to manage different situations and maintain skills in managing difficult situations."

He added: "The clinical driver for women in west Kent and East Sussex is how can we make sure the doctor is awake and alert, but also has the skills expected?

"That was the drive – if we consolidate resources in one unit it becomes possible to do that. The same argument applies to midwifery structures."

NHS West Kent said that the reconfigured service will mean that consultant presence on the maternity ward can be increased from 40 hours to at least 60 hours a week and will make the trust more attractive to the best candidates at a time when there is a relatively small pool of doctors available in obstetrics, gynaecology and paediatrics.

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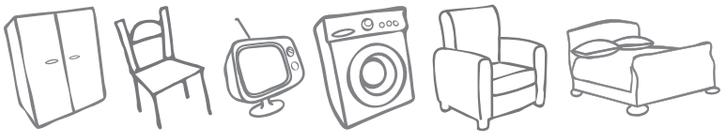

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The Millionaires' Tea Party

By JAMES BENJAMIN
westkent@kosmedia.co.uk

Picture: MATTHEW BLACK

DAVID Miliband wined and dined big-money backers for his push for the Labour leadership at a sprawling country house in Kent – before his party had even been kicked out of government.

That was the claim made last week in a national newspaper which said Mr Miliband – the favourite to become the party's new leader – had entertained the wealthy figures at Chevening, near Sevenoaks.

Chevening is a government 'grace-and-favour' mansion and traditionally put at the disposal of the foreign secretary.

Mr Miliband, who assumed that role prior to Labour's General Election defeat, now faces claims he "exploited the trappings of office" at the country retreat in a bid to butter them up for an upcoming push to replace Gordon Brown at the helm of the party.

The politician denies the claims, saying the event – held at the end of January this year – was simply a chance to thank friends who had supported both him and the party and that the taxpayer did not foot the bill.

Contest

David Miliband remains the bookies' favourite to become the new Labour Party leader, but he faces no easy task to assume control. He is being closely fought by brother Ed Miliband while rivals Diane Abbott, Ed Balls and Andy Burnham are all applying pressure in the race for the votes of the party faithful next month.

However, as Labour look to rebuild after being beaten at the polls in May, they are desperate for the leadership campaign not to become mired in negative publicity.

Diane Abbott recently claimed David Miliband had a campaign war chest of some £400,000 – although official figures put the total at less than half that.

The Sunday Times claims those attending included Labour peer Lord Mitchell, film producer Lord Puttnam, and media tycoon Lord Alli.

Between them, it is alleged, "they poured £70,000 into Miliband's leadership campaign" in the months after the event.

However, it is denied seeking financial support was the primary purpose of the event and that no money was requested during the event.

The paper quotes Lord Mitchell as saying: "Nobody ever approached me to make a donation to his campaign. This was not one of those business meetings when they try to hassle the money."

Wrangles

Some 20 people – which included spouses – attended the event on January 23. At the time Labour was facing up to the very real prospect of being voted out of office, while internal wrangles within Westminster's corridors of power were brought to the fore after an aborted leadership challenge – spearheaded by former ministers Geoff Hoon and Patricia Hewitt.

A spokeswoman for Mr Miliband this week denied exploiting the government property for his own political purposes.

She said: "The generous donors who have supported David so far have done so because they love the Labour Party and believe David is the right person to lead it.

"All the donors have known David for many years and he values both their friendship and financial support for his campaign. They donated money… because they believe in a progressive Labour Party and any assertion that they have done so for any other reason is a slur to them and to David."

Under the ministerial code, party political events can be held in grace-and-favour residencies, as long as the bill is footed by the host.

Mr Miliband's staff say the event was paid for by the politician and the tab not picked up by the taxpayer.

Picture: REX

DINNER: David Milliband has been accused of using Chevening, top, as the setting of a push to impress supporters in his leadership bid while he was still foreign secretary before the May election

FACT FILE

Chevening country house is no stranger to playing host to political big-hitters; of providing the backdrop to some of the most powerful figures and decisions for our nation.

As the official residence of the foreign secretary, the 17th century, 115-room mansion is a suitably imposing building – its red-brick English Renaissance style exterior stood tall and strong within 3,500-picturesque acres near Sevenoaks.

In fact, since the coalition government was formed, it has doubled up its functions. Not only is it for use of the foreign secretary, but also the deputy Prime Minister too.

Which means William Hague and Nick Clegg have to compare diaries for trips to the £15 million retreat.

The house was previously the family seat of the Earls of Stanhope and was bequeathed to the nation in 1967 by the seventh Earl of Stanhope. The only condition he stipulated was that it be used by the Prime Minister, a Cabinet minister of a descendent of King George VI.

During the mid-70s, it was rumoured Prince Charles was considering living on the estate. He decided against it and instead purchased Highgrove House in Gloucestershire.

Since then it has been put at the disposal of the foreign secretary.

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Tributes flood in for life-loving son

THE family of a 20-year-old who was killed when his car collided with a tree have paid tribute to him and his "infectious zest for life".

Danny Love, from Knockholt, died when his VW Golf overturned on Otford Lane in Halstead near Sevenoaks in the early hours of last Thursday – August 5.

His parents, Kenny and Mandy, and his sister Joanne, remembered him in a statement released by the police.

"Danny was the sort of young man who was happy to be around people of all ages from the young children who adored him to the older generation," they said.

"He had strong family values, unusual for someone his age, and he particularly loved his grandmother, often calling in for a cup of tea but more importantly to him, to check she was OK.

"He will be missed by many for his appetite for fun, never missing a beat of life, constantly meeting friends, all night every night."

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Mr Love went to St Michael's School in Otford before going to Sutton Valence School near Maidstone.

His family's statement continued: "One message from a family friend reads 'Danny had an infectious zest for life', this is typical of the very many kind messages written by friends and family; most of which were directed towards the fun they have had with Danny during his relatively short life.

Fovever Young

"Danny will be remembered by so many, and remembered forever by his parents Kenny and Mandy and sister Joanna. Danny will never be forgotten and in the words of one of his favourite songs he will remain 'Forever Young'.

"There is no point in saying 'sleep tight' or 'rest in peace' to Danny as those words never existed in his vocabulary."

An inquest into Mr Love's death was opened and adjourned on Tuesday.

"Danny's car collided with a tree in Otford Lane, Halstead. The car overturned and Danny's life ended instantly, thankfully Jack, his passenger and friend of 13 years, escaped without injury," his family said.

"He was a keen sportsman representing both schools at rugby, soccer, cricket and hockey as well as playing for Sevenoaks Rugby Club for a number of years.

"For him though his greatest accolade was winning first place in Bromley's bonniest baby competition aged six weeks."

Mr Love worked in the printing industry before getting a job with the maintenance and construction company EPS as an apprentice heating engineer. Something his family said he "loved".

His funeral will be held on August 20 at St Margaret's Church, Halstead at 12.30pm.

TRAGIC: 20 year old Danny Love was killed instantly when his car overturned in Halstead

Off-licences pass underage police test

TEST purchasers were sent into six off-licences to see if they were selling alcohol to under-age drinkers.

Neighbourhood police officers teamed up with trading standards officers for the checks on the premises in Edenbridge and Sevenoaks on Saturday, August 7.

A teenager was sent into each off-licence to buy alcohol and see if the appropriate age checks were carried out.

All six of the premises tested passed after refusing to sell booze when the customer could not prove they were 18.

Police licensing officer Ellen Shaw said: "Last year Edenbridge was a pilot area for the Kent Community Alcohol Partnership, which aimed to reduce the impact of under-age drinking for young people and the communities they live in.

"A lot of work was done in partnership with retailers to prevent sales to young people. A year later it's good to note that the message hasn't been forgotten."

Car owner fined for refusing to reveal identity of speeding driver

A MOTORIST has been fined £350 and received six penalty points on his licence for pretending someone else was driving his car when it was caught speeding.

Mark Ainley, 48, of Whitepost Lane, Culverstone, pleaded guilty to failing to give the identity of the driver of his car when he appeared at Maidstone Magistrates Court on Tuesday.

The court heard a Jaguar S-type was caught by a mobile camera van travelling at 40mph in a 30mph limit in Borough Green Road, Wrotham, during the evening of November 30, 2009.

Ainley, as the registered owner of the vehicle, was sent official documents by Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership asking for the identity of the driver at the time.

He nominated a Mr Turner at an address in Eastbourne, but papers sent to this address were returned as "not known at this address".

So officers from the safety camera partnership's enquiry team visited the address and spoke to its tenants, who said they had never heard of Mr Turner.

The letting agents then confirmed that Mr Turner had never lived at the address in East Sussex.

As a result Ainley was interviewed under caution by the police, but could not give any more information about Mr Turner, even though he claimed he was a client and was borrowing his car with his permission.

The magistrates fined Ainley £350 and ordered he pay £50 towards the costs of the prosecution. They also gave him six penalty points on his driving licence.

After the sentencing PC Russell-Thomas, who investigated the case, said: "Mr Ainley was given ample opportunity and plenty of time to explain further to police about Mr Turner but he either chose not to or could not because Mr Turner did not in fact ever exist.

"The keeper of a motor vehicle is under a legal obligation to give sufficient information to identify the driver of their vehicle when required to do so by police. The consequences of failing to do that are clear in this case."

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Cinema lines up a 3D blockbuster feast

THE Stag Cinema (pictured left) has unveiled the line-up of blockbuster films which will be screened from next month in 3D.

The independent cinema at the Stag Community Arts Centre in Sevenoaks has reported record ticket sales since installing the state-of-the-art technology last month.

Five fantasy and adventure blockbusters will be screened in 3D at the London Road venue between September and December.

These are Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole 3D, Despicable Me 3D, Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows Pt 1 3D, Narnia: The Voyage of The Dawn Treader 3D and Gulliver's Travels 3D.

A spokeswoman for the community arts centre said: "Now that 3D at the Stag Cinema is well established, sales for cinema tickets are at an all-time high."

A new website for the cinema is also currently under construction and online booking will follow in the autumn.

Art of the community

Nine-day festival will showcase many events

By JON COATES
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

THE first Crowborough Arts Festival is set to get under way next month with a packed line-up of exhibitions, workshops and performances.

The nine-day event aims to bring the community together to enjoy the visual arts, music and drama at venues throughout the town.

It will officially take place from Saturday, September 18, until Sunday, September 26, but drama and music events have now been added on Friday, October 1 and Saturday, October 2.

Exhibition

The festival will start with a children's carnival bird-making workshop at All Saints' Hall on September 18, from 10.30am to 3.30pm, followed by a parade on Chapel Green.

It will finish with a performance of some of William Shakespeare's best-known speeches by Beacon Community College students on October 1 and a gig featuring local rock bands at the college's main hall on October 2.

In between this there will be visual arts exhibitions and a chance to help create a sculpture using natural materials in Crowborough Country Park at Jarvis Brook.

People will also be able to pick up an original art work at a craft fair, enjoy a troupe of Egyptian belly dancers and musicians at Beacon Hall, take part in singing, writing and drum workshops, or try their hand at improvised comedy.

About 50 artists working in all media will take part in the visual arts section of the festival.

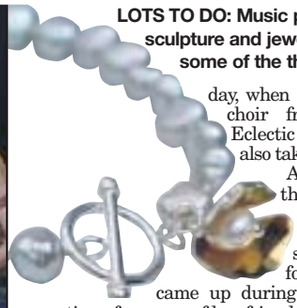
Visitors will be able to enjoy their work at the free festival exhibition at United Church in Croft Road and in shop windows around the town centre and Jarvis Brook.

Nineteen studios will be open throughout the festival week in Crowborough and Rotherfield for a short art tour.

Crowborough Library will also host an exhibition of the best entries from community arts competitions.

Another highlight will be a choir performance led by Scott Stroman, who is professor of jazz at the Guildhall School of Music.

He will give a singing workshop on Saturday, September 25, from 10am to 4pm to create a community choir from scratch, which will perform in the evening of the same day, when Mr Stroman's choir from London, Eclectic Voices, will also take to the stage.



LOTS TO DO: Music perfomances, sculpture and jewellery are just some of the things on offer

Allyson Cook, the chair of Crowborough Arts Festival, said the idea for the festival came up during a book club meeting of a group of her friends in the town.

She said: "We decided nothing much happens in Crowborough and that it would be good to organise something that would bring the community together.

"We all had contacts in differing areas, someone could do the visual arts, I could do music and someone else drama, so we decided to give it a shot.

"As far as we know, no one has ever tried anything on this scale in Crowborough before, but we felt it was important to organise something that the town could feel was its own."

She added: "We have had very positive feedback so far but we just hope this translates into ticket sales. There are 20,000 people living in Crowborough and we hope a good number will come along and support the events."

For details and to buy tickets see www.crowboroughartsfestival.co.uk, or call the festival box office on 01892 662673.

Campaign urges shoppers to make moo-ve to organic

TV PRESENTER Kate Humble has lent her support to a new campaign encouraging shoppers to switch the milk they buy to organic.

The popular star of such shows as Springwatch is backing a move to go organic in a bid to benefit the wildlife in the fields and hedgerows of Britain.

In the south east there are already 23 organic dairy farms – including one in Sevenoaks who has joined the call too.

Mike Cottrell of Bore Place Farm in Sevenoaks said: "As an organic farmer I see literally everyday the positive impact that organic farming has not only on our own cows but on the wildlife all around us.

"We don't use artificial chemical pesticides which can kill off beneficial insects along with the pests, affecting the whole food chain. Our organic grass grows using sunshine and natural fertilisers, rather than chemicals, allowing our cows to do what they do best: turn rich grass into great organic milk for the breakfast tables in the region."

He and Kate Humble are backing the Organic Milk Cooperative's Break the Habit campaign. Says the TV personality: "We are often guilty of shopping on autopilot, particularly when it comes to those everyday purchases such as milk.

"With this campaign we hope to encourage shoppers in the south east and throughout the UK to reconsider their own habits and think a little more about the benefits that organic milk can offer them and their families as well as our countryside and its wildlife.

"A very simple, low-cost change in our shopping behaviour will very definitely make a big difference. If the population of the south east currently buying conventional milk switched to organic, it would turn over 1,500 square km into organic land."

New plans for high street traffic

TOWN councillors have backed plans to increase the number of parking and loading bays in Sevenoaks High Street.

Sevenoaks District Council last month unveiled plans to create 14 additional parking spaces in the town centre following the closure of Waitrose multi-storey car park.

At the same time new unloading areas would be created for businesses and the flow of traffic improved.

Council chiefs proposed that temporary parking spaces outside the WHSmith store in the High Street, which were set up during recent utility road works, be reintroduced as ten new pay and display parking bays. These spaces would be free to blue-badge holders.

At present, this area has restrictions preventing parking during the daytime.

Loading restrictions are proposed on the east side of the High Street, as vehicles parked in this area can cause an obstruction leading to considerable traffic delays.

The existing taxi rank in the street is seen as under-used, so as part of the changes it will be reduced to two spaces to create four new pay-and-display spaces outside Lorimers for short-term parking.

It is proposed that existing parking restrictions across the entrance to Akehurst Lane are altered to apply to all times so that access is maintained.

A final proposal is to create two new loading areas on the High Street to assist local businesses and retailers.

The changes are needed as Waitrose has moved its High Street store into the former Woolworths site and closed its multi-storey car park.

Town councillors discussed the plans at a recent meeting and backed them on condition that parking restrictions on the opposite side of the High Street to the ten new pay-and-display spaces are strictly enforced.

A spokeswoman for the town council said: "Councillors had no objections providing that no parking is permitted on the opposite side of the road and that this is rigorously enforced to prevent traffic congestion.

"And, providing that highways officers were satisfied, there would be no danger to pedestrians not being able to see to cross the High Street because of parked vehicles."

She added: "Sevenoaks Town Council has asked Sevenoaks District Council to review the proposed times loading and unloading in the new bays and requested that these are restricted to 9am to 11am."

Details of the parking proposals can be viewed on the Transport & Streets/On-street parking page of the district council's website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk, or at its offices in Argyle Road during opening times.

The public have until August 29 to comment on the proposals. Comments should be in writing and sent to Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG, or emailed to transportation@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

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EXCLUSIVE

Looking back to where it all began

As one of Britain's best known politicians reveals he is stepping down from front bench politics, JENNA PUDELEK catches up with Jack Straw to reminisce about his first foray into politics – and defeat in Tonbridge way back in 1974 to the district's still serving MP - Sir John Stanley

THIRTY-six years ago a rather fresh faced Labour activist in his mid-twenties stood before the returning officer and discovered his first stab at becoming an MP had been put to the sword by the good folk of Tonbridge & Malling.

Speed forward to the present day, and the slightly older and certainly more experienced same figure has just announced he is to step back from the frontline.

Because after a life of politics Jack Straw, now 64 and currently the shadow justice secretary, has been there and done that.

One of Labour's best-known and most respected figures, it is a little known fact that his first steps on that career were on our doorstep, way back in 1974.

Having announced that he is standing down from the front bench to make room for a new generation to form the shadow cabinet, the former home secretary spoke to this newspaper while on a train travelling, ironically, to Tunbridge Wells to visit a friend.

Standing against him for the Conservatives in the newly formed constituency all those years ago was John Stanley, who has retained the seat and picked up a knighthood since.

"It was at the time of the miners' strike and the three day week when the election was suddenly called by Edward Heath," Mr Straw said.

"Even though it was unnecessary, they had a majority of about 50 and had been in power for three and a half years.

"It was very much an election of choice by him. It was on the issue of who runs Britain?"

When the election was called for February and as the crisis was building towards the end of January, a 27-year-old Jack Straw was working as a trainee barrister and living in Islington.

"I told everybody I was fighting to win of course, but I wasn't bonkers, I realised the revolution had been and gone and I was unlikely to win Tonbridge and Malling," he said.

However, it was a new seat and no one absolutely knew for sure who would win.

"In Tonbridge at the time there was quite a strong Labour party, so it was not completely bereft of Labour activists," he said. "There was a printers in East Peckham and railway workers."

So he juggled appearing in court with travelling around the area trying to woo voters. Mr Straw said he had a mixed reception – some doors would be slammed in his face while other residents would engage in lively debates about policy.

"It changed in the last week," he said. "The public said 'if Ted Heath's asking who should lead the country, the answer is that is what we pay him for' and they went against him."

Locally, the Liberal candidate, Michael Vann, began to garner support.

"John Stanley became worried the Liberal could take the seat. It was a bit of a bubble like we saw from Nick Clegg in this last election. There was a moment when it looked like they could take it," he said.

Battle lines

Mr Straw went on to reminisce in detail about the campaign and how the local Tory office in the High Street had published a leaflet with a derogatory description of the Liberal candidate.

He said the Liberal bubble did eventually burst. And like the May 2010 election, the February 1974 vote ended in a hung parliament. But the coalition talks did not work out and Harold Wilson became Prime Minister, calling another election in October.

It sounded like there was genuine camaraderie between the candidates with Mr Straw and Mr Vann betting a £1 note on who would come third, which the former foreign secretary would win, he remembered, by just 18 votes.

John Stanley would poll 24,809 (45.78 per cent of the vote), Michael Vann 14,701 (27.13 per cent) and Jack Staw 14,683 (27.09 per cent).

Mr Straw also remembered his Conservative opponent fondly and both have shared long careers in the Commons.

"I always got on with him and have ever since," Mr Straw, who will remain MP for Blackburn, said.

FACT FILE

Jack Straw

Parliamentary jobs
- Current job: Shadow justice secretary and lord chancellor since May 2010
- Previous positions: Justice secretary and lord chancellor (June 2007 – May 2010)
- Leader of the Commons (May 2006 – June 2007)
- Secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs (June 2001 – May 2006)
- Home secretary (January 1997 – June 2001)
- Shadow home secretary and spokesman for home, constitutional and legal affairs (January 1994 – January 1997)
- Opposition spokesperson, environment (January 1992 – January 1994)
- Opposition spokesperson, education (January 1987 – January 1992)
- Deputy opposition spokesperson, education (January 1984 – January 1987)
- Opposition spokesperson, environment (January 1983 – January 1984)
- Opposition spokesperson on the Treasury and home affairs (January 1980 – January 1983)

Education
School: Brentwood
University: Leeds University; Inns of Court School of Law
Former career: Journalism; barrister/advocate

Career before Parliament
1969–1971: president, National Union of Students
1972: called to the Bar
1974–1977: special adviser to Labour parliamentarians
1977–1979: Granada Television

MAKING HIMSELF HEARD: Then, as now, Jack Straw goes on the campaign trail speaking to members of the public perched atop his trusty soapbox

BEATEN: Back in February, 1974, the now Sir John Stanley beat Labour's Jack Straw in the first ever parliamentary battle for the newly formed Tonbridge and Malling seat

On the campaign trail this year, Mr Straw took his soap box, which has been a standard of his parliamentary fights, across the country urging people to keep Labour for a fourth term.

"I first started doing that for the election in Tonbridge," he said. "It was organised that I'd stand at 2pm on a Sunday, which I thought was completely crazy. So I was standing on the soap box with the PA system in East Peckham and it was absolutely deserted apart from my agent and his daughter."

Sir John was also complimentary about his opponent, he said: "He was my first Labour opponent in 1974. Although we've disagreed politically we have always remained on very good terms personally.

"I think he'd probably say the same about me, but he was not very different to what he is like now. He was able and he knew he was not very likely to win the seat, but he was earning his spurs for running for Blackburn."

Mr Straw ran for Blackburn in 1979 and rose through the Labour ranks while the party was in opposition before becoming home secretary in 1997 until 2001 when he was then foreign secretary until 2006. Gordon Brown made him justice secretary in 2007.

Career

Sir John said: "I think he was always looking to go fairly high.

"He was really a career politician from a very young age. He was head of the National Union of Students – he was very radical and it was always obvious that politics was going to be his life.

"He was able and dedicated and it is likely that able and dedicated people will do well in politics."

Sir John said the pair had an "entirely friendly campaign, courteous" and he was not at all surprised that Mr Straw remained in the Cabinet for so long. He was one of only three ministers to stay on the front bench continuously between 1997 and 2010.

On his decision to stand down, Sir John added: "Everybody has to make a decision when to step down and he has had a very long and distinguished innings.

"I can see that having got to where he is and he is not standing for leaderships that there are things he wants to do outside politics as well as inside his constituency."

Mr Straw, who has a majority of 47.8 per cent in his Blackburn seat, will stand down from the front bench in October, when the party's new leader chooses their new shadow cabinet.

He has said he intends to write his memoirs at some point, but that they would not be a "kiss and tell".

He said: "I'm going to take a bit of time and do them differently. I'm afraid I don't agree to people breaking confidences."

Concerns and caution urged as latest house building perk unveiled

CONCERNS have been raised that a scheme to encourage new homes will see cash-strapped councils building to benefit from a cash bonus.

Under the plan, the Government will match the council tax raised on each new house for six years as an incentive for more development after the coalition scrapped Labour's regional housing targets.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Sevenoaks District Council have all so far adopted a 'wait and see' approach and kept tight-lipped to the New Homes Bonus scheme, which housing minister Grant Shapps announced on Monday, as they awaited full details.

But Richard Knox-Johnston, chairman of Protect Kent, said the campaign group had concerns about the incentive scheme: "The concern is that cash-strapped councils needing money may be encouraged to promote housing schemes that will damage the environment.

"Even if there is opposition from local people, a council will be the one to make the final decision.

"If it decides the opposition is not strong enough, the development could still go ahead.

"Cash-strapped councils could look for ways to get houses built so they benefit from the cash bonus."

Mr Shapps said action was needed because home building was at its lowest level since the 1920s.

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FEEL-GOOD SHOPPING

What's a young

With the summer holidays well in their stride, the perennial issue of there not being enough for youngsters to do in the town has reared its head. CLARE GRANT speaks to those involved in youth provision and to those keen to highlight what they see as a shortcoming in Tunbridge Wells' provision for its younger residents

FACED with a choice of sitting at home or hanging around after dark in a Tunbridge Wells park, a surprising number of teenagers choose the latter. But one young woman has decided the town's young people deserve more.

Jess Weller is 14 and studying for GCSEs at Robertsbridge Community College. She lives in Tunbridge Wells during the weekend. She said: "There are so many kids around and there's nothing for them to do so they just get drunk in Calverley, which isn't good."

She adds: "I wouldn't go to Calverley rec because there's so many fights there. If you go there after 6pm you are likely to get involved in something that you don't want to be involved in."

Evidence

Miss Weller said that father, Jon, who works for Voluntary Action West Kent, had heard that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council felt there was not enough evidence of a lack of activities for the under 18s.

So she and a friend decided to collect that evidence by starting a group on online social networking site Facebook. The two girls were surprised by the response.

"More people have joined than I expected. It's done really well. I was only expecting about 100 people to join."

The group has more than 1,000 members.

Miss Weller herself is aware of some activities, and she regularly swims at Cranbrook: "There are clubs and sports clubs, and Beluga used to have an under 18s night."

Finding out about events can be a bit hit and miss for young people.

Miss Weller says: "I would ask my friends. A lot of stuff that goes on for kids gets put through the schools."

Louisa Clark of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council gave a list of recommendations: "The Healthier Communities Team at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council run a number of activities throughout the year, in partnership with NHS West Kent under the Choosing Health agenda, which aims to make healthy choices easier.

"The team provide various after-school clubs with activities including dance, multi-sports, gymnastics, self-defence and netball. They also run a football and boxing club in Sherwood. These activities are for young people aged between 5-16 years old."

NOWHERE TO GO: While there are various organisations providing activities for our young people, Jess Weller says what's missing is simply a place to hang out

The borough council offers a Go Card which gives discounted entry to leisure centres and theatres in and around Tunbridge Wells, although this is only available to students in full-time education who are aged over 16.

There are also events for those who prefer less physical exertion at Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery.

Louisa Clark says: "During the summer,

person to do?

What is a Facebook group?

Facebook is an online social networking site which allows users to maintain a page about themselves.

Users link up with friends who also have accounts on Facebook and share news and pictures about themselves. Facebook is open to anyone aged over 13 and is one of the most popular sites of this type – it has 350 million active users worldwide.

Within Facebook, anyone can set up a group for a special interest or a cause, as Jess Weller has done. People join the group to show support for the cause, and when they join, a notice appears in their Facebook news feed.

This lets all their friends know about the group, and if they support the cause, they will join too.

the museum runs a series of mini beast safaris and outdoor walks in parks and open spaces. There are also occasional art workshops and other events aimed at teenagers."

Louisa Clark adds: "The activities are fun and educational. They are designed to be flexible, giving all members of a family a chance to get involved."

Hang out

It all sounds fun, but what would Miss Weller really like to see in the town?

"Maybe just a youth club. Somewhere for kids to hang out."

Jackie Sumner of Town and Country Foundation, which organises many social projects in the town, agrees.

"All they want is somewhere safe, out of the cold and wet, that feels like their own place."

Cllr Catherine Mayhew, portfolio holder for health and well-being, said: "Tunbridge Wells Borough Council already offers a wide range of activities for under 18s to take part in across the borough. We always like to hear from our residents, of every age, and we would be very interested to hear what the younger generation wants to see happen in Tunbridge Wells.

"I hope the Facebook page has a lot of input from the young residents of the borough and I look forward to learning what they like about Tunbridge Wells and what ideas they have for its future development."

Kent County Council also expressed an interest in hearing from young people wanting something more.

Kate Nowowiecki said: "The Kent Youth Service helps young people to meet together in a secure environment, to have fun and to build friendships.

"We encourage all young people to become involved in and enjoy the large variety of activities and educational programmes on offer across the network of youth centres and activities taking place out and about."

She called on young people who wanted something more, or who would like information about what's on offer to contact the youth service on 01732 225065.

Kent County Council has a directory of events for young people aged between 13 and 19 at www.togogo.info. As well as events listings which can be searched by age, the site offers advice on volunteering opportunities, conservation and ways for young people to get their voices heard.

The Facebook group We Want More For Under 18s To Do In Tunbridge Wells can be found at http://tinyurl.com/ybhcfru.

What do you think?

Is there too much money and effort invested in keeping our young occupied? Or is there not enough?

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Strike a glamorous pose

A PRIVATE hospital became the backdrop for a glamorous 1950s Hollywood-inspired fashion shoot.

High profile photographer Sandra Freij chose the old Garland suite at Benenden Hospital for a feature for Japanese fashion magazine Commons and Sense.

Models, Edythe and Line Gost, played the role of Doris Day and Ingrid Bergman in the scene set up to reflect 1956 Hollywood.

It is not the first time the hospital has had a taste of the world of celebrity – rap artist Skepta recently filmed the video for his latest single there and it also provided the location for a drama production company making a pilot programme for the BBC.

The models posed wearing 50s-style clothing in a set on one of the old wards.

Photographer Ms Freij said: "The idea of the shoot is focused on the 1950s woman. It's a light-hearted portrayal of women in that era who had to live up to such icons as Doris Day, playfully suggesting Day had spent time in an institutional environment due to the pressures she faced and the expectations on her."

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PRETTY IN PINK: One of the Master Florists' floral creations was this hat box

Hats off to charity efforts of florists

A FLORISTRY demonstration evening at Hadlow College has raised more than £600 for a charity helping wounded members of the Armed Forces.

Five British Master Florists created designs in front of the audience at the event hosted by the college's award-winning floristry department.

The florists, Tina Aram, Neil Bain, Catherine Carter, Sharon Galloway and Linda Searle, demonstrated a range of designs, including wedding and wired bouquets, and ended with a finale of hand-tied creations.

The money was raised in support of the Help for Heroes charity through an entrance fee to the evening.

Further floristry demonstrations are planned at the college, with the next one scheduled for November to cover designs for the festive season.

For more information contact the British Master Florists on fiveflorists@yahoo.co.uk.

Facing your

Thought about how you want your funeral service to be? JENNA PUDELEK meets the woman who is making a career out of a very different type of final farewell...

AMID the pain and the heartache of losing a loved one comes the dilemma of just exactly how you bid them farewell.

Do you opt for a religious ceremony? Or humanist? Or perhaps something altogether less formal?

And how do you make that decision?

For one woman, the death of her parents would bring home the problem and usher in a radical career change she believes is her calling.

Now the former journalist turned funeral celebrant is helping to lead a revolution in the way funerals are provided and it's all a very long way from the pomp, ceremony and subdued formality in which the Victorians once so revelled.

Jan Comley, who works across Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks, said people of her generation – the baby boomers now in their 50s and 60s – were looking for different and more personal ways to celebrate the lives of their loved ones.

Since qualifying as a celebrant, she has been leading funerals that are reflective of someone's personality rather than the formulaic, traditional affairs that have been the norm.

CHOICE: Jan Comley offers the option of celebrating the life of a loved one in a way that reflects their personality, rather than following the conventions of a traditional funeral

"More and more bereaved families are customising ceremonies to honour their loved ones in ways that reflect their spirit and personality," Mrs Comley said. "Balloons are released, poetry read and musical preferences played – sometimes live. It is all about incorporating what the individual loved to do.

"There's a positive shift away from a formal ceremony and all its liturgy to a real celebration of life."

In one case, a little boy from Tonbridge, who died suddenly from meningitis, was given a Buzz Lightyear-themed funeral. Mrs Comley said the parents made up t-shirts and the toddler's coffin was covered with the character from the hit movie Toy Story.

The family also chose to play the Vanilla Ice song Ice, Ice Baby because the father used to come home from work and dance with his son to it, she said.

"I know I'm helping people through a difficult time from the feedback," she said. "It is not depressing because I know I'm helping people in that way.

"When I go and see families, it is cathartic for them to talk about them and what they liked and enjoyed. It is actually quite a joyous occasion."

Mrs Comley, who lives in Hadlow, had been working as a freelance editor and writer before both her parents died about three years ago.

Their deaths and her experience organising their funerals eventually inspired her to become a funeral celebrant.

"I got involved because of my parents'

AV TRINITY

Issues facing very high earners...

With the football season upon us, the press is again obsessed with 'excessive' wages and comparisons with those in more 'regular' careers. Little attention is paid to the inverted model of a professional sports person's fiscal path, or indeed others with a similar issue, such as City traders and those in the media.

The very highest performers in football will enjoy perhaps 4 years of peak earnings, for City traders it might be 10, for those in the media; significantly longer, or less – we are a fickle lot!

Most of us plan for a 30 to 40 year career accumulating wealth for perhaps 30 years in retirement. But for these very high earning individuals, the challenge is to make a very condensed period of 10 years or less last a lifetime, invariably with access required long before normal retirement, so liquidity, not just tax efficiency, is key.

Lifestyles should be managed accordingly, which is why candid advice is essential – listen to those who know, not those who say what you want to hear.

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final curtain call

deaths," she said. "Luckily we do not have to arrange our loved ones' funeral very often.

"When my mother died, I did not really know what to do and I wasn't prepared for all the questions the funeral director asked. When we were asked who we wanted to take the ceremony I did not know, my parents were not religious.

"They suggested we try a retired minister, but the ceremony was not very good and I felt I had let her down."

Two years later, her father died. Mrs Comley chose a humanist to lead the service. She said: "Although he did an excellent job, they are atheists and although my father was not religious he was still quite spiritual and I still felt I'd fallen short.

"I was floating around at that point doing freelance editing when I had this notion of becoming a funeral celebrant."

She went on a course in Devon and had a life changing experience, which she describes in almost religious terms: "It was like I was always supposed to be doing this and what everything in my life had been leading up to. It was like a vision."

Since the end of the course in November last year, Mrs Comley said she has been incredibly busy and that the local funeral directors had been supportive of her new venture.

Michele Bland, from Henry Paul Funerals in Pembury, said: "A good funeral starts with helping those left behind – who are often in shock and distress – to make the right choices so that they never look back and wish they'd done things differently.

"We like to positively encourage family members to share and reflect the way their loved one's life was led. The very special moments, the people, the places, music, dramas of occasions shared or stories told, from one generation to another."

Funerals are changing and there is now the possibility to have a short committal at a crematorium followed by a more meaningful ceremony somewhere that was important to the deceased, whether it is a barn, a field, a golf club or the family's home.

Coffins can be covered in images they loved and provisions can even be made to ensure their final journey is made in a vehicle that meant something to them such as a vintage car.

A particularly poignant funeral was that of a 15-year-old girl who had died from a sudden illness.

Mrs Comley described how she had been a "bubbly, gregarious girl" and her parents wanted this to be reflected at the funeral so the chapel had a party atmosphere with her favourite music playing.

All her friends and family had to bring a balloon and they were mainly in her favourite colour, pink.

"People are waking up to this," she added. "Given another few years I think people will be asking rather than accidentally finding out about us.

"At the moment a lot of people would prefer an independent celebrant but stumble across me."

See www.funeralcelebrantkent.co.uk for more information about Mrs Comley and her work as a celebrant.

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Green Party supports bid for OAPs' free rail travel

By JON COATES
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

A CAMPAIGN for free train travel for the elderly across our county is being supported by Green Party members in west Kent.

Retired decorator Harry Farrow started his bid to secure rail passes for the over-60s on Southeasten services outside peak hours early last year.

He wants the scheme to run alongside the current free bus passes available to senior citizens across the county.

Mr Farrow, 63, from Kemsley, near Sittingbourne, says he cannot see why the elderly across Kent cannot use the rail network for free when their counterparts in London and the Midlands are given train passes.

Petition

He has collected 10,000 signatures on a petition supporting his campaign which he will deliver to Number 10 Downing Street on Thursday, August 26.

But due to the length of time it takes to get to west Kent from Sittingbourne on a bus and the cost of travelling by train on a pension, Mr Farrow has not been able to come to this part of the county yet to campaign and collect signatures. He is aiming to do this later this year and is being helped by Kent Green Party spokesman Steve Dawe, who lives in Tonbridge.

ON TRACK: Mr Farrow will take his petition for free train travel for OAPs to Downing Street

Mr Dawe said his party is backing Mr Farrow's campaign and wants to see the free bus travel offered to senior citizens nationwide extended to cover train travel as well.

He said: "In areas outside of the larger cities, bus travel options in the evenings and on Sundays are either limited or completely unavailable.

"Meanwhile train services are commonly run at these times and for many public transport users represent the only way to get around.

The Green Party believes that free bus travel for the over-60s in England and Wales should be extended to cover train travel too.

"As an experiment, we recommend an initial trial in the south east where evening train services are comprehensive.

"We accept that an annual charge of perhaps £12.50 per annum would be needed to cover administrative costs and to discourage applicants who would hardly use it."

Cost

Mr Dawe, who contested the Tonbridge and Malling seat in the General Election in May for the Green Party, added that the need for rail passes for the elderly has become a real issue due to the rising cost of train travel.

He said: "This proposal would offset some of the future expected worsening of living costs for pensioners while removing many reluctant drivers from the roads."

Mr Farrow welcomed the support of the Greens in west Kent and vowed to continue campaigning for rail passes, even with the coalition Government moving the goalposts with their plan to raise the age for free bus passes.

He said: "I will keep going regardless of what the Government decide the age limit should be, as free rail travel is something elderly people really need."

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FURRY FRIENDS: One of the two binturong that have made their home at Drusillas

Zoo's two new arrivals have a rare tail to tell

THESE inquisitive unusual beasts are the latest to join the creatures at animal park Drusillas.

The two rare binturong arrived at the nearby animal park in Alfriston, East Sussex, from the Rare Species Conservation Centre in Sandwich.

Penh and Angkor moved into their home last week and since then they have been settling in well and getting into the swing of life at the award-winning zoo.

Also known as bearcats, despite not being related to bears or cats, this species is not often seen in zoos.

In the wild, binturong live in the tropical rainforests of south-east Asia, where they are regarded as threatened mainly due to habitat destruction and hunting.

About the size of a large dog with the females generally bigger than males, they are very agile animals, with long prehensile tails which they use as an extra limb.

Binturong eat a varied diet which includes insects, fish, small birds, mammals, eggs, fruit, leaves and plant shoots. They scent mark their territory by dragging their tail on branches as they climb and the smell is often compared to that of warm popcorn or cornbread.

Zoo manager, Sue Woodgate said: "We are delighted with the new arrivals. They have been very popular with our visitors who are astonished at how big binturong are; on the first day they arrived here our visitors were even queuing up to see them."

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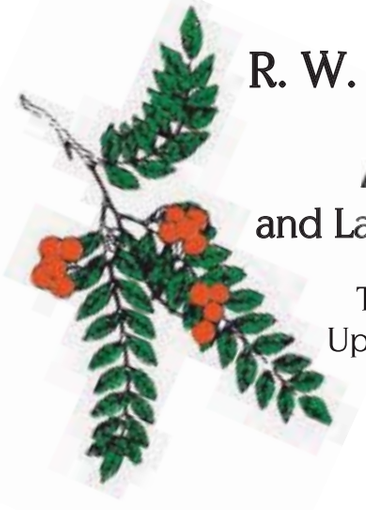

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JON COATES is in a buzz about a world record attempt to look after our bees

There's no place like home

A WILDLIFE charity will attempt to set a new world record this week by building the largest bee home at one of its nature reserves.

Staff and volunteers of Kent Wildlife Trust are planning to construct the five metre by two metre bee house at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve on Tuesday.

They are aiming to complete the structure in four hours under the watchful eye of two official witnesses from Guinness World Records, who will measure and validate it as a new record.

After it has been built, the bee house will become a permanent feature of the reserve, which is accessed off Bradbourne Vale Road, with bees expected to take up residence next spring.

WHERE THE HEART IS: An artist's impression of how the bee home will look. Solitary bumble bees like the one pictured left use small holes in wood or stone as their nests

Habitat loss

A spokesman for Kent Wildlife Trust, which is a leading conservation charity running 60 nature reserves across the county, said the event has been organised to highlight the plight of bees, as many species are in serious decline due to habitat losses.

It is hoped the record-breaking bee house will create a buzz and inspire families to install homes for bees in their gardens.

The spokesman said: "This is not a bee hive but a carefully designed structure to encourage the nesting of solitary bees that are equally as important to the food chain as bumble bees and honey bees."

Chartered builder Edward Morgan has built the frame for the bee home, which will be filled with stone, bricks, pre-drilled concrete, wooden blocks and plant material.

All of these materials have been donated by local businesses or sourced from the trust's own nature reserves.

Inmates of Maidstone Prison have built many of the internal component parts of the structure in their workshops.

The record attempt was approved by Guinness World Records on January 4 and planning permission was then obtained from Sevenoaks District Council.

The Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Simon Raikes, will officiate over the record bid and declare the start at 10am.

It is hoped the final measurements of the bee home will be taken by the official witnesses at 3pm to validate the new world record.

After the event, photographs and documented evidence will be sent to Guinness World Records for official approval and confirmation.

If successful, this will be the second world record held by Kent Wildlife Trust – as it already holds one for the world's largest bird seed cake, which was set as part of the trust's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2008.

Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve was the first sand and gravel quarry in Britain to be developed into a nature reserve.

It is almost totally man-made, but the pioneering reserve is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest covering 55 hectares with five lakes, ponds, seasonally-flooded pools, reedbeds and woodland.

The site is home to a wealth of birds, but its wetland and woodland habitats also support an array of plants, insects, fungi and animals, with more than 2,000 species so far identified.

Honeybees need legal protection

SURVIVAL of the honeybee is the focus of a new study aimed at saving their dwindling population by using the weight of the law.

It follows a dramatic dip in numbers in recent years as Kent beekeepers have witnessed a 50 per cent reduction in the amount of honey being produced.

Parasites and pesticides are being blamed for the drop, with wildlife campaigners calling on the Government to investigate.

Exportation of honeybees as their population declines globally has also led to calls for tighter restrictions to be put in place.

University of Greenwich at Medway law lecturer Dr Opi Outhwaite, who has an interest in agricultural health, environment and biosecurity legislation and regulation, is conducting research into the decline.

Her findings will be presented to the National Bee Unit, part of the Government's Food and Environment Research Agency, in September.

"Bee colonies across the world have been declining as a result of a combination of problems including pests and diseases such as varroa, a parasitic mite which is now endemic in the UK, foul brood and small hive beetle," she said.

"Bees are regularly imported, exported and moved around the world. Part of my research will include reviewing the laws and procedures governing the import of bees into the UK, as well as the movement across England and Wales.

"I will be looking closely at the statutory regulations around hive inspections and the reporting of bee and hive pests and diseases, including the procedures and obligations for beekeepers to report diseases within their own colonies."

A third of all foodstuffs are dependant on pollination by honeybees, which also provide more than 50 per cent of the pollination of wild plants that the majority of other wildlife depends on.

Dr Outhwaite said: "Honeybees do not only produce honey and wax. They are valuable pollinators for our crops and play an essential role in sustaining our environment."

Kent wildlife expert Kerry King, said a decline in honeybees should be a top priority for the Government.

"If we lose them, this country's economy will get into an even worse state," he said.

"This would be more devastating than unemployment. Without honeybees we wouldn't be able to grow fruit – it would mean the end for a lot of farmers. We would have to import – the economy would be badly affected."

Mr King also echoed Dr Outhwaite's views that there need to be tighter restrictions on the movement of bees.

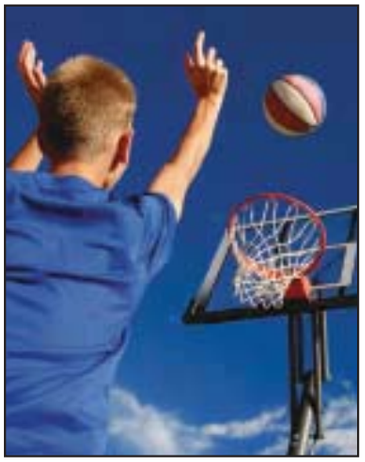
"With bees being such a big part of the economy, if they begin to decline they will be in demand, which could lead to poaching," he said. "There have got to be restrictions and controls put in place."

A report by conservation trust Buglife last year suggested that the removal of one pesticide – the neonicotinoid imidacloprid – could halt the decline, subsequently saving the food chain. According to the organisation, the pesticide spreads a chemical throughout plants and into the nectar and pollen that bees and other insects then eat.

The authors of the report say they are confident there is scientific evidence to prove this causes bees to forage less and produce fewer offspring.

Mr King said: "People don't realise how important it is to prioritise this – there could be devastating consequences."

Last month plans to import short-haired bumblebees to Dungeness from New Zealand had to be postponed after the creatures died in hibernation.



IN THE NET: Police are out in force this summer tackling anti-social behaviour, but sometimes young people just need somewhere to go to keep entertained

Anti-social behaviour is not to be put up with

POLICE officers, community support officers and representatives of partner agencies will be patrolling the streets of Tunbridge Wells every day during the summer holidays, as well as providing activities for young people in a bid to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Traditionally we see an increase in anti-social behaviour during the school holidays and residents of the borough have told us they would like to see the police and council address this.

Therefore we will work closely with the council and other agencies in the Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership to tackle this concern.

We believe that by working together to tackle the issues that matter to our communities we can have a positive effect.

Officers will be out and about across the borough, in the town centres, parks and in the villages, and we will target known hot-spot areas for anti-social behaviour.

Residents of the borough should be assured that we will tackle anti-social behaviour in a robust way.

Nuisance behaviour will not be tolerated and we will do everything we can to ensure Tunbridge Wells remains a safer place to work, live and visit.

However, at the same time we would ask people to exercise a degree of patience and understanding.

During the holidays there will be groups of youths hanging around, but they will not necessarily be causing trouble and it is not a criminal offence.

We would ask residents not to over-react to youngsters meeting their friends or playing football if it isn't causing a problem. We would also ask parents to brief their children and remind them about their expectations for good and courteous behaviour.

■ THE candidates bidding to fill a void on Sevenoaks Town Council left by the death of a long-serving councillor have been unveiled.

Merrill London is standing for the Conservatives, Nicola Rees for the Liberal Democrats and Mark Ellis has put his name forward as an Independent for the vacant Town ward seat.

People living in the ward will be able to vote at The Plaza Suite in The Stag Community Arts Centre and at St Luke's Church Hall on Thursday, September 2, between 7am and 10pm.

A by-election was called after the death of Cllr Paul Allen in June following a long illness.

During his 11 years as a town councillor he represented Kippington and then Town wards, and was the town mayor from 2004-5.

Poll cards will be delivered to homes before the by-election detailing which polling station eligible voters should attend.

Only people included on the register of electors can vote. If you need to register the deadline is Tuesday, August 17.

Voter registration forms can be downloaded at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/elections. For a postal vote application form email elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk, or call 01732 227188 or 01732 227243.

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JULIE MADDOCKS

There's no holiday from worrying

THE idea that every stage of parenthood brings with it new worries was a mystery to me when we brought our first bundle of joy back from hospital.

Surely, nothing could be scarier than giving him his first bath without the supervision of the midwife or getting his dad to change his nappy? All very daunting.

But whoever told me that time brings fresh problems made a very good point.

This week – almost 19 years to the day of our first baby's homecoming – our two babies set off on a whole new adventure. Their first holiday without adult supervision.

They had decided, (along with half a dozen of their friends), that they were going on a lads' holiday abroad. Their plans included some of the most cockroach friendly abodes, and they were looking at flights heading out of Manchester and returning via Bristol – not bad for £129 per person.

They hadn't thought of how they were going to get to and from the airports, hadn't considered travel insurance, and didn't see the problem with the two-star "basic but adequate" hotel they were considering booking, it was fine according to them – "who needs a nice hotel room anyway Mum? We're only going to sleep in it".

TIMES HAVE CHANGED: Holidays are no longer about donkey rides by the beach

The fact they had made the decision to head off on their own was inevitable – they're both adults after all, but it was still a surprise – particularly when we discovered that, typically, their holiday plans were so sketchy and quite clearly all they were thinking about was getting away with their mates for a damn good time.

Being the mum I am, I would have failed them if I hadn't intervened, okay, interfered. Either way, I was determined that if they were going, all precautions and preparations in ensuring a good holiday before they even got there were made.

So, after much research on the internet for convenient flights, reasonable hotel and the right location for where they wanted to be, we booked a last minute package deal to Zante (good luck to the island is all I can say).

I suppose what does come as the shock, is that it feels like only five minutes ago it was me off to the local travel agent in order to book my first holiday without my parents to the Costa del Sun in 1982.

The difference between then and now is that although my idea of a good time wasn't perhaps that different to theirs, I had no preconceptions of travelling abroad.

As a child, the excitement of going on holiday with my parents was a time I treasured, as it was so special and rare due to the expense incurred.

Our annual holiday plans began as the friendly smiling face of Fred Pontin appeared on our TV screens encouraging us to book early.

Quite clearly, times have changed, and our children's expectations are higher as they're able to head off abroad at the drop of a hat.

I've no doubt our boys will return home after a brilliant time with their friends, and while I'm sure they'll be sun-kissed and full of tales of nights out on the Laganas party strip, they'll never have shared the judging of the knobbly knees competition or taken part in the donkey derby.

But what's the betting they'll return home with a 'kiss me quick' hat?

Air Ambulance called to elderly couple hit by car

AN ELDERLY couple have been rushed to hospital after they were hit by a car while crossing the road.

Kent Air Ambulance took the woman to Kings College Hospital in London after she suffered a serious head injury in the collision last Saturday at 10.40am on the A26 in Southborough.

The man was taken by land ambulance to Kent and Sussex Hospital in Tunbridge Wells, where he was treated for minor injuries.

The couple, who live locally, were stuck by a Toyota Corolla, which was travelling north on London Road towards Tonbridge. Police said the female drive was shaken but unhurt.

Four police patrols attended the incident and the road was closed between Springfield Road and Doric Avenue while officers carried out a crash investigation. The road re-opened at 2.50pm.

Anyone with information has been urged to phone the Serious Collision Investigation Unit on 01622 798538.

Bikes marked in police effort

OFFICERS met with young people at a sports ground to offer free bike security markings.

As part of the Safer Schools initiative a mobile police station was at Tonbridge Sports Ground on Tuesday. More than 50 residents of all ages came to speak to officers who security stamped 11 bicycles with the owner's postcode and house number.

Car fire leads to hours of commuting misery

By **JON COATES**
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MOTORISTS were caught in 10-mile-long traffic jams stretching into west Kent after a vehicle on fire and a fuel spill closed part of the Dartford River Crossing.

Police were forced to shut the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge to deal with the burning car on the Essex side of the Thames crossing on Friday, August 6, at 12.13pm.

While this took place both the north and southbound traffic used the Dartford Tunnel, causing major congestion on both sides of the M25.

Traffic tailed back to junction four near Orpington on the Kent side, and the A21/M26 junctions – a distance of 10 miles.

Drivers heading into west Kent were caught in even worse traffic jams on the Essex side, with tailbacks to junction 25, near Enfield a staggering 30 miles.

The near gridlock on the M25 had a knock-on effect on surrounding roads in north-west Kent, south-east and east London, as well as in west Essex.

Motorists caught in the worst of the traffic chaos on the M25 reported journeys of three to four hours getting to and from Kent into Essex.

Businessman Anthony Raymond, 51, from Sevenoaks, said: "It was an absolute nightmare. We sat on the M25 for hours hardly moving. I turned off on to the A2 to use the Blackwall Tunnel instead, but that was not much better.

Picture: REX

HOLD UP: A total of 40 miles of queues stretched from either side of the Dartford crossing

"If I had known the journey was going to take that long I would have turned around and gone home, it was not worth the stress."

At the height of the tailbacks, at 3.45pm, the Highways Agency took the decision to stop charging a toll to use the tunnel, to try and speed up the flow of traffic and reduce the risk of minor collisions in queuing traffic.

But the heavy volume of traffic in the Friday evening rush-hour resulted in severe congestion until 9.40pm.

A Highways Agency spokeswoman said: "We reopened all four lanes of the QEII Bridge to southbound traffic at 4.09pm and the tunnel was fully opened to northbound traffic at 4.38pm.

"But the sheer volume of traffic meant the flow southbound did not return to normal until 9pm and northbound until 9.40pm."

She added: "There was a further closure of the bridge at 10.30pm on Friday until 5am on Saturday to resurface three lanes that had been damaged during the incident.

"We resurfaced about 15 metres in each lane, but this closure did not have a major effect on the traffic, which is light at this time of night.

"The earlier problems were caused by the sheer volume of traffic using the motorway on a Friday afternoon and evening."

Return to medieval times at Bewl Water

By **JAMES BENJAMIN**
westkent@kosmedia.co.uk

TAKE a step back in time this weekend as Bewl Water transports you to the medieval era.

The Lamberhurst attraction will be hosting a special Medieval Weekend and Fair and promises the "air will be filled with the clash of sword on sword, the clank of armour and crowds roaring for their favourite champions".

There will be a full programme of events taking place on both Saturday and Sunday.

Re-enactment groups, including The Company of the Black Serpent and the Northwood Bowmen, will be donning authentic costumes and armour for displays of combat in the Fight Arena. A medieval encampment recreating life 600 years ago will give visitors the chance to wander back in time and see how our ancestors lived, cooked and worked.

Expert archers will be on hand to show visitors how to fire a bow. Visitors can also try their hand at punching out medieval pewter coins and browse among stalls selling traditional craftwork and re-enactment artefacts.

Throughout the weekend, keen newcomers will also be able to find out how to join a living history group and immerse themselves further in the medieval experience.

Laura Edwards, head of events and attractions at Bewl Water, said: "This is a great chance for people to be entertained and educated at the same time. Bewl will be transformed into a scene from 15th century England and the fight arena will be a real crowd-pleaser, giving us the chance to cheer our heroes and boo the villains.

"One of the great joys of Bewl is that the whole family can come and stay all day, bringing their own picnics or enjoying our lunches, beers, snacks and ice creams."

Entry to Bewl Water is £5 per person. For more information see www.bewlwater.co.uk.

KNIGHT TIME: Enjoy all the action of sword fighting as knights battle it out for the crowds

• ***For a full line-up of what to see and where to go this weekend, turn to our pull-out Review section inside this newspaper – your essential guide to what's on in around this area.***

Multicultural camps in spirit of the Olympics

MORE than 200 young people from 14 countries across Europe came together in Kent recently for the first of two major summer camps to celebrate the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The event was designed as an opportunity to share cultures, explore parts of Kent and take part in activities from raft-building to circus skills.

The 2010 Eurocamp was a nine-day event for 14-17 year olds being hosted by Kent County Council's Youth Service. It was based at the service's outdoor education and residential centre in Swattenden, near Cranbrook.

Confidence-building

Other nationalities included those from France, Ireland, Norway, Finland, Austria, Sweden, Italy, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine, Luxembourg, the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein.

The wide range of activities included confidence-building rope courses, raft-building, archery, canoeing and rock climbing. There were also workshops in art, drama, music and circus skills. Cultural trips included visits to Dover Castle, Canterbury and London with a trip to the Olympic Park.

Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Community Services, Mike Hill, said: "This was an absolutely fantastic opportunity for these young people to experience multiple cultures in one place, to make new friendships, develop as individuals and simply have fun together.

"The Olympics is about much more than sport; it's about welcoming the world and making links for the future, and this camp is an important part of Kent's Olympic legacy."

Wait! There could be birds still nesting

YOU might be getting frustrated by straggly foliage or unruly tree branches which appear to be taking over your garden, but the RSPB is asking that you hold back on the trimming.

It is urging gardeners to avoid making the chop as there could still be late nesting birds hidden within the greenery.

Sophie McCallum, RSPB South East media officer, said: "The RSPB receives a lot of calls at the moment from people that have started hedge trimming and discovered a nest. It is very disturbing for gardeners to think they have upset their garden birds and they worry that they may fly the nest and the young won't survive.

"You can save yourself a job and wait for a few weeks, ideally until late September at the earliest. If you do need to do it sooner for safety reasons perhaps, try and replace any greenery as much as possible so as not to deter the birds."

Most garden birds breed between March and August but some species will be on their nests until late into September.

Cutting this early could also starve birds and mammals of a vital fruit supply. Many plants will still have an abundance of berries which could see the birds through the winter.

Last year's winter larder of berries on shrubs and hedges meant the difference between life and death for many resident birds and winter visitors.

The RSPB is also urging local authorities to hold back on cutting hedges for a few weeks yet where possible.

Many have to cut hedges for path access or horticultural reasons for example, but where there is flexibility, the wildlife charity suggests waiting until the end of summer.

If maintenance is unavoidable at this time, the RSPB asks that gardeners, local authorities and contractors consider nesting birds and do preliminary inspections.

For more information on gardening for wildlife visit: www.rspb.org.uk/hfw.

PLEA: THe RSPB is asking that you check for nests before cutting back your hedges

Stars swing into action for charity golf event

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
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TOTTENHAM Hotspur manager Harry Redknapp will be among the celebrities taking to the golf course for a major annual charity tournament.

Kent comedian Dave Lee has put together a stunning list of stars who are donating their time to help underprivileged, disabled and terminally ill children enjoy the holiday of a lifetime.

Among those set to appear at the classic event – supported by KOS Media, publishers of this newspaper – are Mr Lee's stand-up pals Jim Davidson, Bobby Davro and Bradley Walsh, as well as former boxing champion Barry McGuigan, ex-EastEnder Shaun Williamson and children's television presenter Stephen Mulhern.

The charity tournament, which is in aid of Dave Lee's Happy Holidays, will be held at Chart Hills Golf Club, Biddenden, on Sunday, September 5.

Mr Lee said: "We are just amazed at the way these people are willing to give up their time to help the kids.

"It will be an autograph hunter's paradise. These celebrities don't hide behind minders and barriers – they enjoy public contact and want to help in any way they can.

TEE TIME: Harry Redknapp is just one of the celebrities taking part in a charity event organised by Dave Lee (inset)

"And apart from the golf, which will be world class, there is plenty more for families to do."

Other celebrities to have signed up for the tournament include former England footballer Luther Blissett, cricketers Martin Saggers and Derek Underwood, and Gillingham boss Andy Hessenthaler.

Dave Lee's Happy Holidays owns five holiday homes in Camber Sands and has sent more than 45,000 children and their families on holidays to places like Tenerife, Disneyland Paris and Disney World in Florida.

The charity has been running since 1994 and should pass the £2 million donation landmark this year.

Mr Lee, from Herne, near Canterbury, said of the golf day: "This really is a gold star event on the Kent calendar and we want as many people as possible to join in and help continue to bring some sunshine into the lives of those who need our help the most.

"We have plenty of catering too so that will give mum some time off, and dad will like the licensed bar.

"The kids will enjoy the whole raft of entertainment we have laid on too.

"I am so proud of all the volunteers who make this possible. No one takes money out of the charity, so all the cash we bring in goes to holidays for our kids."

Admission is £5, children get in for nothing and parking is also free.

Teams of three can sign up to play, with a celebrity picked to play with them at a cost of £700, which includes 18 holes on the Nick Faldo-designed course, breakfast, pre-dinner drinks and a four-course meal.

There will be entertainment at the dinner, including music and an auction.

Visit www.happyholidays.moonfruit.com for more information.

A free weigh to lose the pounds

A FREE weight loss course will be run in new locations across the Sevenoaks district from next month.

Why Weight is a 12-week course aimed at people wanting to lose two stone or more. It combines a healthy diet with exercise and lifestyle advice.

The course will be launched in leisure and community centres, with start dates in Sevenoaks on Wednesday, September 15, from 10am to 11.30am and on Tuesday, September 21, from 6pm to 7.30pm.

It will also start in Edenbridge on Tuesday, September 7, from 10.30am to noon, in Swanley on Thursday, September 16, from 1pm to 2.30pm and in New Ash Green on Friday, September 17, from 9.30am to 11am.

To find out more, or to sign up speak to your GP or practice nurse, or call Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000.

Cash boost for life skills project

A PROJECT which aims to give disadvantaged children vital life skills has received a £10,000 boost from a bank.

The donation from Britannia's charitable foundation will support West Kent YMCA's Horizon Project, which operates in the Sherwood area in Tunbridge Wells, Cranbrook, Tonbridge and Edenbridge.

The project offers vocational training to underprivileged young people aged 14-21 in carpentry and joinery, plumbing, and painting and decorating.

West Kent YMCA, which is an independent charity, also runs Ryder House in Tunbridge Wells, a centre for up to 24 young homeless men and women aged 16-24.

There's something going on...

Unusual and mysterious things are afoot. That's because *The* Event is about to land. Featuring over 150 vehicles with phenomenal savings on used cars there for the taking. In fact, you can save up to £1,000 on approved used cars. Need more convincing? Well, we've given our team permission to authorise extra discounts on top of the screen price savings. It's going to be pretty spectacular. But it'll only be sticking around for three days so catch it while you can.

***The* Event now on.**
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Pictures: CARZPIX.COMA

STYLE: More than 250 people attended the gathering at Ightham Warren where they were able to feast their eyes on dozens of red hot Ferraris and then their stomachs on tasty food

Garden party is red hot

By **JON COATES**
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

A GARDEN party with a racy Italian theme held in the grounds of a country house has raised £13,000 for a children's hospice.

More than 250 g`uests attended the Foskers Concours d'Elegance and Garden Party held at Ightham Warren in aid of Demelza.

The theme of the party was Ferrari through the ages and guests were met with a sea of red in the form of more than 80 Ferraris spread around the gardens of the estate in Tonbridge Road, Ightham.

Many of the cars on display, belonging to David Piper, Bryn Williams and Max Wakefield, were rarely seen in public, including a Ferrari P2, 365P, 206 Dino, P4 replica and T33. Other cars which turned heads on the lawn were a selection of 288 GTO's, F40'S, F50, Dino's, Daytona's, Boxers, 360's and 430's.

The Italian marque has been synonymous with style, speed and wealth for decades.

An Italian lunch was then provided by the award-winning kitchens of The Swan in West Malling, before a charity auction was held, which raised £13,000 for the children's hospice based in Bobbing, near Sittngbourne.

Sally Brighton gave a speech giving an insight into the work of Demelza before the auction, which was followed by entertainment from comedian Roger De Courcey.

James Needham, who hosted the event at his home, said: "This year was a truly magnificent event and definitely one for next year's calendar.

"We must thank everyone for bringing their Ferraris to this wonderful event and Foskers Engineering of Brands Hatch, who worked tirelessly to ensure it was a success."

To be involved in next year's event email jamesneedham@btopenworld.com.

FACT FILE

Demelza Kent is an eight-bedded hospice in Sittingbourne, providing respite, symptom control, end-of-life care and bereavement support.

Life-limited children and their families benefit from a wide range of facilities that include a multi-sensory room, Jacuzzi, and an 'Inclusion Zone' for young adults.

The care team, led by children's specialist palliative care nurses, aim to make the most of every moment the child spends at Demelza House.

The hospice also offers a comprehensive service of support using a bereavement suite – known as the Hop Garden – which enables a family to let go and say goodbye at their own pace.

See www.demelza.org.uk to find out more about their work.

JANE CONNOLLY takes a stroll into a costumier wonderland themed around the

Pictures: JANE CONNOLLY

CURIOUS: Character mannequins at the Mad Hatter's tea party model the collection

Exhibition is

VISITORS to Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery are invited to disappear down the rabbit hole with its latest exhibition.

Curiouser and Curiouser is a new costume exhibition which presents some of the museum's most interesting pieces in a magical setting.

Step into a land of strange garments, beautiful dresses and intriguing underwear while learning about the fascinating fashions of the past.

Taking Alice in Wonderland as her theme, audience development officer Katrina Burton has found a way to bring some lovely old items out into the light.

"The objects are part of the museum's existing collection," she said.

"We've got a fantastic costume collection, but a lot of it is in store and not seen very often. We wanted to highlight the most amazing pieces. We've got some beautiful Georgian and Regency waistcoats and fantastic shoes and fans. So we wanted to turn them into something special."

Visitors are greeted by an enchanting decorated passage that leads them into another world, where they will stumble across 18th-century garments, baby shoes from the late-1800s and even a doll's fan dating from 1940.

When looking for a way to showcase these curious objects, museum staff decided that a

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legendary adventures of Alice running in a major display in Tunbridge Wells…

YOUR FANTASY WARDROBE: (from far left) A jacket from the collection; the crinoline, as worn under Victorian dresses; visitor comments on the suggestion board; the jacket by Anna Cocciadifero, which visitors can try on; a miniature dress

dressed to impress

WELL WORN: A Victorian patterned silk brocade waistcoat and watch fob

classic children's tale about discovery was the perfect answer.

"Visitors almost appear to discover these things and that's where the idea of Alice in Wonderland came from," Mrs Burton said.

"It was the idea of going into a costume wonderland, looking around a corner, seeing something and thinking 'wow'."

One of the highlights of the exhibition is a 1770 silk waistcoat, with a hand-embroidered floral silk design.

"What we've done is to get some contemporary textile artists to create work in response to things in our collection," Mrs Burton said.

"One of the artists, Cas Holmes, has created hanging banners to go behind the waistcoat. They really set it off and make it look amazing."

Mrs Burton believes that giving contemporary artists the chance to respond to workmanship of the past will help modern audiences to connect with the exhibits.

"It's a different way of interpreting what we've got in the collection," she said. "It makes you look again at the object instead of just walking past. It makes you really see it."

The contribution of contemporary artists also helps visitors to see beyond the heavy fabrics and into the private world of Victorian dressing.

"Artist Anna Cocciadifero has created a crinoline, which is a structured skirt," Mrs Burton said. "The other dress on show in that area is also a crinoline, but you wouldn't know it. So you can see a hidden world of Victorian undergarments and bring it into the open."

Accessible

Visitors can get to grips with history by trying on a jacket made by one of the artists and seeing how they would have looked in the fashions of the past.

"Clothing as a theme is very accessible. As soon as you see clothing, you can relate to it – we all wear it and we can imagine people wearing it," Mrs Burton said.

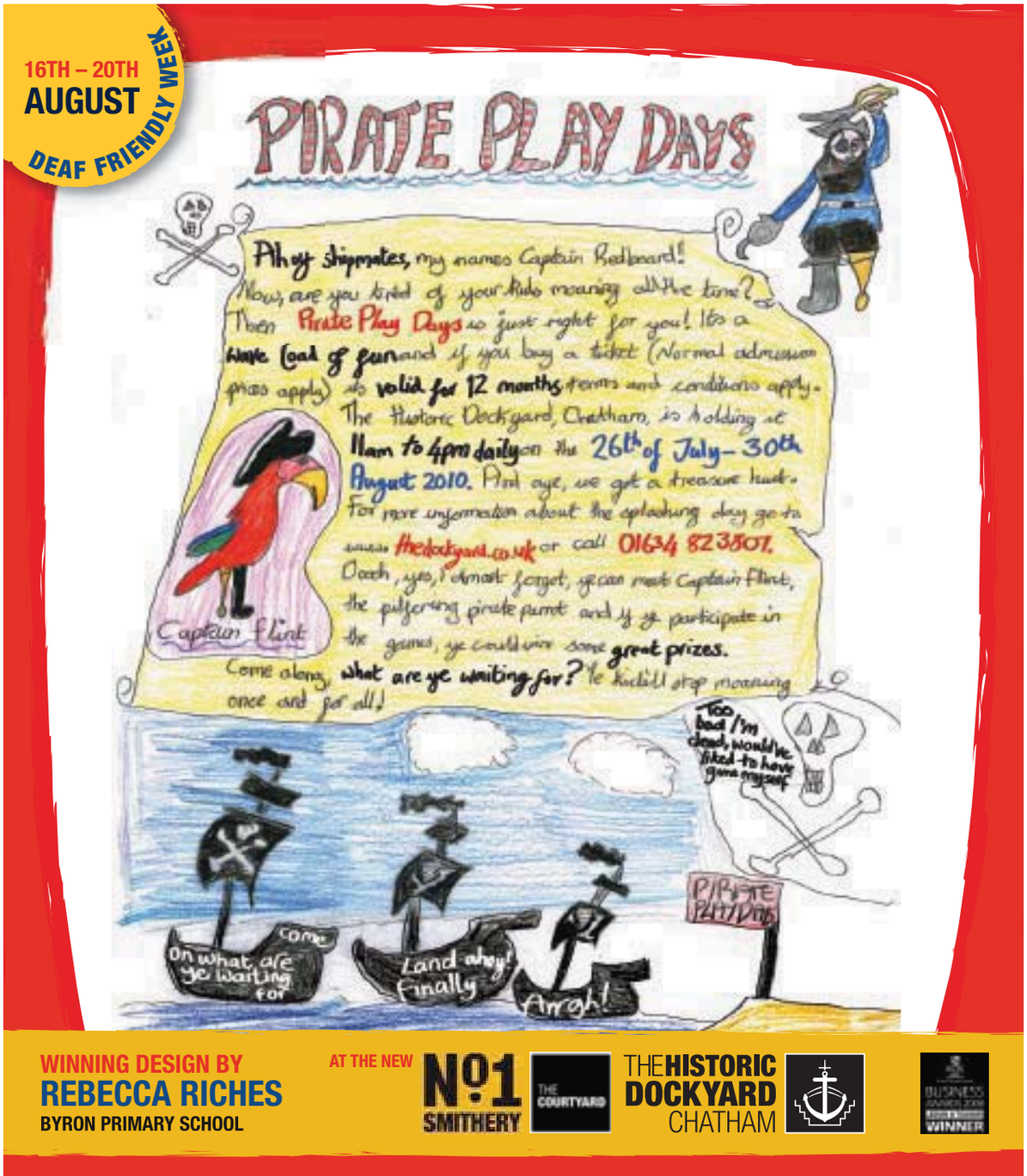
"The jacket is a pattern of sleeves, so you can wear it any way you like and it's exciting to see people trying it on in lots of different ways."

Anyone who would like to make comments about the exhibition can pin comments to a noticeboard, something museum staff are keen to encourage as they aim to make the exhibition a magical experience.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, where the characters model some of the museum's pieces.

"Because of the era in which Alice in Wonderland was set, it lends itself well to our collections," Mrs Burton said. "The exhibition is also called Curiouser and Curiouser because we want people to be drawn in and become curious about these items."

Curiouser and Curiouser runs until Saturday, October 23, and admission is free. Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery is open 9.30am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday, and 10am to 4pm on Sundays. It is closed on bank holidays. To find out more, call 01892 554171 or visit www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org.



CHRIS BRITCHER

Speeding past life's priorities

IF there is one thing I have never quite been able to get my head around, never been able to grasp the basic logic of, it is the hatred people feel for speed cameras.

Now, I appreciate I am in the minority here, because it seems most people would gladly spend a weekend selecting a hefty baseball bat and laying into the yellow boxes, before going round and breaking the legs of all of those who made the decision to put them up in the first place. Such is the anger and bile directed at them.

They infringe every right we have, the critics bleat. They are just money-making machines, they whinge. We hate it when they catch us out going too fast and we get points on our licence and have to pay some cash, they tellingly blub.

My response? Don't drive so fast. Simple.

And if you're driving fast or paying such little attention that you miss the dozen or so signs warning you of a camera, or you don't notice the lines on the road, or you actually don't notice the box painted bright yellow missing only a neon sign above it saying 'slow down for a minute, I'm a speed camera, and this is a dangerous bit of road' then, quite simply, more fool you.

SPEED CAMERAS: There is a reason for them

Yet their demise may be just around the corner as the lens-cap is put on them by councils as part of cost-cutting measures.

It is not a God-given right to be able to drive. Nor is it a God-given right to drive as fast as we jolly well please. And if, as a driver, you adopt a 'well if I crash and die on a clear piece of road on this nice clear, bright, dry day, then that's my look out', well, while I agree sympathy would be at a minimum, what if your car collides into someone else/someone's house/someone's pet/someone's prize garden as it carries you in your final death somersault?

Who's going to clear up all the mess, putting themselves out to clear up, well, you? Who's going to have to tell your bereaved relatives – your kids, your parents, your other half – they'll never see you again because you had to get from A to B, realistically, what, a few minutes quicker? At the very least, you're going to dirty someone's spade as they scrape you from the Tarmac.

So regardless of how clear the road is, and how only you appear to be on it or near it, that's no excuse to drive like an idiot.

What's more, if you believed the moaners, you'd think speed cameras lurk around every street corner.

Realistically, have a ponder how many you pass daily. One, maybe two? (Granted, if you commute from Tunbridge Wells to Exeter, then you may pass a few more) but if you're being honest they are few and far between.

One I regularly pass is near the site of a particularly high profile crash that killed a young child. Another is near a school and popular park on a wide road.

Now, it doesn't take a genius to see what the powers-that-be were trying to do here. Take care along here, is the message, because even though it looks clear, you may suddenly find a small child wandering into the road, or a dog loose from a lead.

In other words, have a think. While behind the wheel of a car, remember you are in a metal box that can kill people and your brain should not be pottering along in neutral.

They make money? Well, so be it. Fining people has been a punishment for centuries and continues to be an effective deterrent.

I'm sure if they are scrapped here, all of those who wrote in and told me I was an idiot when I wrote a similiar column to this a while ago will go into super smug mode. They'll say they've been proved right and will compose their witty letter probably at about 90 miles an hour on their way home tonight.

It's a shame though isn't it? Because if we live our lives at such a ridiculous breakneck speed we have to thumb our nose up at a law designed purely so our streets are not littered with dead motorists, pedestrians and pet dogs, I fear for our society's sense of priorities.

Now, you watch, I bet I'll get a ticket as I drive home tonight. That'll teach me, eh?

Chris Britcher is editor of this newspaper. Contact him with your news and views by emailing him direct: chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

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Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Council's selling point

While Tonbridge and Sevenoaks councils might be right in biding their time, Tunbridge Wells council seems on the one hand to be taking painful decisions.

It is cutting jobs, closing the tourist centre (proposed) etc, while also spending its way out of trouble – bidding for the cinema site, buying the Land Registry site and selling the Town Hall site (including the theatre and library).

Very nice, but where is the money coming from?

The cinema site will, at a guess, be £5 million, the Land Registry about £10m.

While sale of the Town Hall site would more than cover this, when, in the current climate, would this be sold?

To refurbish the Town Hall would only be about £5million, and what about replacements for the theatre and the library?

Simon Mankelow, Tunbridge Wells

Curtain down on theatre?

Development of the Town Hall complex is all very well and good, but the Assembly Hall Theatre is also part of that complex.

If the Town Hall is to be redeveloped, what of the Assembly Hall Theatre?

If it was just a hall there would be no problem in moving it, but it was also built as a theatre. Look up at it and you will see that it is taller at the back than the front as a result of the fly tower required for the 'flying' scenery.

Either the Assembly Hall Theatre has to stay or we lose our 'cultural centre', as are the council going to spend millions building a new theatre?

And where would all the shows, pantomimes etc go?

Name and address supplied

A party working together

Your article on the Labour leadership contest in the August 8 issue of your newspaper was interesting.

Having attended one of the hustings in London recently I have considered that the party is together and the parliamentary party are constructively criticising government.

There is not a strong case for the future leadership to be decided yet because all candidates and non-candidates are working well together, speaking to their strengths as necessary.

Similarly, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has a number of vice chairs who speak from different viewpoints that work.

By comparison, it has not been until the past year that the Conservative parliamentary party has somewhat got it together and opposed things that should be opposed and supported things they should support.

On war, Trident and everything else, they had been getting it the wrong way round. I should say that the Liberal Democrats also sat on the fence.

I hope that the country is governed considerately without more wars, as sadly war and active service attracts military recruiting and flag-waving jingoism. There are good people across all parties and there is a positive agenda passed on by Labour for higher standards in those with power and influence.

By comparison, John Major left to watch the cricket whilst his colleagues, that he called "the bastards", carried on stabbing each other in the back. His Back to Basics legacy was a joke. We could do without more ideology-based policies, but valuing each other, quality of service provided, rather than money, litigation and what works, is the best that can be done.

I think the Conservative Party and public expectation has changed.

I was unemployed for a year, there were vacancies in electronics that remained unfilled, then suddenly companies started seriously recruiting a month after the change of government.

It seemed as if they were holding off driving down pay rates. Those who control money, and not governments, can choose when or if recession will occur to some extent.

Voting alone or voting for Conservative irrespective of the quality of a particular candidate and his particular party in Southborough is not democracy.

The Alternative Vote seems fairer, but politically, involvement is better.

Please join; http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TunbridgeWellsLabour/ if you are broadly sympathetic to our objective.

Andrew Lohmann, High Brooms

Our natural pest control

Further to your August 1 article about wasps, they are critically important in the natural control of pest insect species.

Susan Westlake

VOTE NOW...

Each week we'll be giving you the chance to make your voice heard online on a major issue.

This week we want to know your views on health campaigners calling for sunbeds and tanning salons to be banned due to an alarming rise in incidents of skin cancer in this country.

So the question is simply this: Should sunbeds and tanning salons be banned to stop an increase in skin cancer?

Answer yes or no by voting on the home page of www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk, www.yourtonbridge.co.uk or www.yoursevenoaks.co.uk.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Should the Government be replacing nuclear weapons at a time of cutbacks in front-line services like schools?

- **Yes** – 21 per cent
- **No** – 79 per cent

Letters continue on page 30

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BIRTHS

BOWERMAN
Cherise Bowerman celebrates the birth of her beautiful little daughter Esme-Nevaeh, born on the 30th July weighing 3lbs 13oz. Mummy's most beautiful and precious little Roo.

BRETT
Debbie and Darren Brett celebrate the birth of their son Samuel Michael on 14th July 2010 weighing 8lbs 9oz.

BSEISO
Mohammed and Yassmina of Canterbury are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son, Ryan Bseiso, on 6th August 2010. A much loved new grandson and nephew.

DARBY
Melissa and Tony Darby of Margate celebrate the birth of their daughter Isabella Mary-Ann Darby on 24th July 2010. Our most beautiful and precious daughter.

GRIFFITHS
Nathan and Louise are delighted to announce the birth of their son Jacob Benjamin, little brother for Thomas William. Jacob was born on 28 July 2010 and weighed 7lbs 13oz.

HART
Gary and Michelle would like to welcome Jenson Lucas Hart into the world. Born on the 27th July 2010.

HILL
Claire and Martin are very happy to announce the birth of their beautiful son Tyler James Hill. Tyler was born in the very early hours at 00.26 am on the 30th July 2010 and weighed 6lb 13oz.

MEARS
Lara Elizabeth born on the 8th July 2010 to Stuart and Liz. Sophie is very pleased to have a new baby sister.

MOKONE
Kaya born on 31st July 2010, weighing 8lbs 2oz. Daughter to Edyta Busko-Mokone and Herman Mokone in Maidstone.

PEAKE
Eleanor Rachel Peake born on 20th July 2010 weighing 8lbs 15oz. Daughter to Jennifer and Matthew and sister to Nathan in West Malling.

PHAGURA
Sukh and Sat are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Taran Singh Phagura. He was born at home on the 25th July 2010 at 3.15 am. He is a much wanted brother and play mate for Ricky.

POOLE
Jon and Sarah of Herne Bay are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Ella Ann, on 2nd August 2010. A new sister for Joshua.

VAUGHAN-WHITING
Macie Anne Vaughan-Whiting born on 29th July 2010 weighing 8lbs 7ozs. Daughter to Laura and Lewis in Margate.

WICKHAM
Kerria and Adam Wickham celebrate the birth of their son Zacharie Thomas Wickham on 26th July 2010 weighing 7lbs 12oz. Grandson to Alyson and Steve Lovell and Tina and David Wickham.

DEATHS

CARE (NEE MOCK)
Lorna, sadly taken from us on August 1st 2010 aged 41. She will be greatly missed by her loving husband, daughter Lauren, Mum, Dad, Sisters, family and friends. Funeral service to take place at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Tuesday 17th August 2010 at 10.30am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for Willow Foundation or Wisdom Hospice to c/o Doves Funeral Directors, 788 London Road, Larkfield, Kent, ME20 6BE. No black attire is requested.

WILLIAMSON
It is with great sadness we have to announce that John Williamson sadly passed away on 2nd August 2010 following his long illness. He leaves his loving wife Pamela and 3 wonderful children and 5 adorable grandchildren.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Electoral reform has no mandate

Recently the political parties approached the electorate with the offer of a working majority government by the process of selection by a general election, although it was said before the election that this was not possible and a hung parliament would be the result.

This non-completion by the voters of a working majority offer by one party to form a government seems to be the fault of the voting public – an 'undecided electorate' – and further, the fault of the voting system that requires a referendum to allow change.

Given that the electorate seems to be held responsible for the present coalition arrangement, and also one of the coalition parties polled fewer seats than before, the present government should not be the agent of change of electoral reform, rather another third party agency.

Mr WA Laslett, Broadstairs

Catalan bullfight ban is welcome

I was delighted to hear the parliament of Catalonia has voted to ban bullfighting, despite its place in Spain's cultural tradition.

For a long time I have been concerned by this barbaric practice and this decision was an important step towards the total ban I would like to see.

Bullfighting is a continuation of a cruel age from the past, in which the suffering of animals was a spectacle for public entertainment. These practices continue to reinforce the idea that animals are nothing more than objects we may use at our whim, and they have no place in today's Europe.

Since being elected I have received numerous letters objecting to bullfighting, and I am determined to make sure no money from the EU is ever used to fund this bloody tradition.

I look forward to the day when this ban is extended across the whole of Spain.

Catherine Bearder, Liberal Democrat MEP for South East England

Three bouncers at your sports desk

Much as I enjoy the trips down memory lane as provided by your sport timeline, it would be more enjoyable if you checked your facts before going to press.

In your 50 years ago, 25 years ago and 10 years ago spots of August 8, you got it wrong. In the account of the Kent v Derbyshire match played during Canterbury Week, you stated that 'Kent wrapped up the win in just three overs of the morning session', yet according to your report, with nine second wickets in hand, Derbyshire needed 302 to win.

Given that Kent's victory was by 190 runs, Derbyshire surely did not lose those nine wickets in three overs while at the same time scoring 112 runs?

Then, 25 years ago against Essex, you tell us 'Chris Tavare went on to steer Essex to win'.

The records show Chris Tavare batted first wicket down for Kent in that match. So as far as I am aware he never played for Essex.

And what of your comment that the match against Leicestershire at Canterbury 10 years ago 'was the first Sunday one-day game of the season at St. Lawrence'?

I'm afraid that is also wrong. Although the first scheduled match at Canterbury on April 30 against Lancashire was abandoned without a ball bowled, it was certainly the first scheduled National League match at St Lawrence that season.

David Robertson, Sandwich

Private standards are more exacting

How can private institutions damage academic standards when they are required to meet more exacting standards than their public counterparts?

The University and College Union survey shows 96 per cent of professors oppose private providers "having an easier route" to becoming universities – this is absurd.

Private providers will never have an easier route and no-one has ever suggested so. This scaremongering, ignorant nonsense should be seen for what it is.

Had the survey phrased the question differently it would have produced vastly different results, for example, 'Should private providers of higher education have to jump through numerous additional bureaucratic hoops to obtain degree awarding powers, or should they have to follow exactly the same procedures and requirements as public institutions?'

As for Sally Hunt and her arrogant rant that private providers "don't deserve to be in the same league", she would be better served to put her own house in order. It is widely known that many public universities are failing institutions offering appalling levels of education with woeful standards, but no-one ever does anything about them.

It's far easier to knock the private boys but again ignorance reigns supreme. There are currently only four private providers of higher education with degree awarding powers who are not in receipt of public funds. These are for-profit organisations BPP and Ashridge Business School, and not-for-profit registered charities the College of Law and the Canterbury-based ifs School of Finance.

There are only four providers because the standards they have to meet are significantly higher than any standards that publicly-funded institutions have to meet and therefore there isn't much interest.

Perhaps the best example is that even after taking years to go through the costly, bureaucratic process of gaining degree awarding powers, these private providers are only granted them for a maximum six-year period. After that they have to reapply.

In contrast, once a public institution is granted degree awarding powers they have them 'in perpetuity', no matter how far standards and quality fall.

David Willetts is merely talking about creating a level playing field in which quality and standards are the mechanisms of judgement, not whether they are private or public.

I doubt you can find a single student who cares whether their university is public or private. They care about the quality, the standards, and ultimately their employment prospects.

Name and address supplied

Back Flello against farm feed import

MP Robert Flello is spearheading the drive for planet-friendly farming by taking forward a new bill in the Commons to limit the climate and wildlife damage caused by factory farming.

The bill aims to reduce British meat and dairy factory farms' dependence on animal feed grown in South America, which is destroying rainforests and wildlife and accelerating climate change. UK farmers need help to thrive by protecting them from yo-yoing animal feed costs and ensuring they are not squeezed by big business farming.

Our Government spends more than £700 million every year propping up factory farms while planet-friendly farmers receive little or no support.

East Kent Friends of the Earth is urging local MPs Charlie Elphicke and Laura Sandys to support the campaign and to support the Flello bill at the second reading stage in November.

Visit www.jointhemoovement.com for more information.

Stuart Cox, coordinator, East Kent FoE

Hidden dangers lurk in quarries

With the long school holidays, young people will be looking for excitement and places to hang out with their friends.

I would like to appeal to parents to ensure their youngsters are not tempted to enter local quarries uninvited. Over the past two years, six young people have died through falls or drowning at the sites of former mineral workings. While some hazards are obvious, others are less so.

The water in quarries can, for example, be icy cold and deep, with unexpected currents and obstacles hidden beneath the surface. Quarry edges can be unstable and caves dug into sand stockpiles can collapse on you.

As part of our annual campaign, the Mineral Products Association has launched a Facebook page, Stay Safe ... Stay Out of Quarries which highlights not just what can happen if you venture into a quarry without permission but also the huge impact the death of a young person in a quarry accident has on their friends and families.

The video is about the deaths of Jay Harris and Ryan Walker, two teenagers who died in quarry accidents last year. We also have a YouTube video under the same title. They are resources we hope parents and others will use to help deliver our warning. So our message is please, stay safe … stay out of quarries.

Elizabeth Clements, Mineral Products Association

Housing database will boost mobility

The creation of a national housing database will be a huge step forward for social housing tenants. Poor mobility within the sector prevents hundreds of thousands from moving home to take up employment, care for sick and elderly relatives and relieve overcrowding.

In order to create a genuine free market of house swaps, however, the scheme must ensure all landlords sign up and that it is easy for all social housing tenants to access, regardless of whether they are on the internet.

One way to support this would be the creation of a national helpline. From our experience running House Exchange – the UK's only not-for-profit mutual house exchange scheme – we know how powerful the model can be. During straitened economic times, the scheme has the potential to both improve the life chances of hundreds of thousands of tenants as well as saving money by making it easier, for example, for tenants to take up work in other parts of the country. In short, it has the potential to be a genuinely transformative development for the sector.

David Williams, executive director, Circle Anglia

It doesn't have to be a dog's life …

More than 70 per cent of dogs arriving at Dogs Trust rehoming centres have received no basic training such as "sit", walking on the lead and "retrieve".

With more than 16,000 stray and abandoned dogs arriving at our centres every year, this leaves a huge task for the charity's 24 training and behaviour advisers. To help prevent even more dogs being abandoned, Dogs Trust has set up a series of free online training videos called Dog Training Made Easy to help teach basic training and commands to owners. The videos are only a couple of minutes long and can be accessed online at www.youtube.com/dogstrust.

Training your dog should be every responsible dog owner's duty, and I hope these videos will help everyone to easily access training and have fun with their dog.

Clarissa Baldwin OBE, chief executive, Dogs Trust

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...that is also a charity

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Youngsters make movie magic on new film course

YOUNG people are being given the chance to step into the shoes of their silver screen heroes through a new film-making course.

Starting on August 23 and running for one week, the course offers students the opportunity to create their own films with help from the youth division of the Stag Community Arts Centre in Sevenoaks. The course is being run at Swanley Technology College by Sevenoaks Town Council and anyone aged 11-18 can apply.

People interested in writing, acting, directing or producing are encouraged to apply for a place, at a cost of £25 for the week. At the end of the course the film will be edited by a professional film company with a screening at the Stag cinema in the autumn.

Everyone who attends the course will receive a DVD of their finished film.

To apply, email enquiries@stagsevenoaks.co.uk or call 01732 450175.

Scientists learn body of work

SIXTEEN of the county's top science students have taken part in Pfizer's biology project week at the University of Kent.

The event was organised by scientists Sheridan Piper-Brown and Holly Siggins and saw pupils investigating subjects such as the effects of dust mites on lung tissue and defects in chromosomes.

The aim of the week was to test the students' knowledge and skills, while broadening their understanding of applied science and research techniques.

Mrs Piper-Brown said: "The week brought together a group of hardworking and very bright students. We hope we have inspired them to become scientists of the future."

Take a vocational route towards a new career

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

SCHOOL-leavers faced with the disappointment of missing out on a place at university are being urged to look at a vocational alternative.

It follows a steep rise in the number of applicants, coupled with university spending cuts and fewer places, where hundreds of would-be students in Kent could fail to get a place this year. Businesses are now calling on hopefuls to consider a different career path.

Research carried out by the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT), the UK's leading professional body for accounting and finance staff, found 60 per cent of school-leavers in the South East ignored alternative options to university when deciding their future.

The study also found 43 per cent of those who went to university were unsure whether they had made the right choice.

Jane Scott Paul, chief executive of AAT, said a degree is not the only option.

"Many school-leavers and their parents assume that a degree is the only route to a professional career and this just isn't the case," she said. "Vocational qualifications offer an excellent alternative to university and should not be overlooked."

Ms Scott Paul said young people should consider whether vocational courses and apprenticeships are a more rewarding option.

She added: "School-leavers bring a range of skills to the workplace that many employers find extremely valuable."

Finances

Companies are also pushing students to look at the financial benefits of starting a vocation.

"Deciding to take a vocational subject makes economic sense," said Ms Scott Paul. "With the average student debt estimated at £28,000 for a three-year degree course, the financial savings for choosing this route could be high.

"In the case of accountancy, for example, qualifying with the AAT enables you to progress and become a chartered accountant more quickly than someone with a degree."

Hannah Lamb, from Canterbury, chose a vocational subject over university.

She said: "I had never wanted to go to university because I didn't think it could offer the practical skills needed for the workplace.

"The idea of leaving with thousands of pounds of debt also put me off applying."

The 20-year-old, who had always wanted to work in accountancy, found out about AAT and got a job as a payments assistant for Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS, based at Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

She said: "There is no better way to train than on the job, so I was excited to find a vocational qualification that would enable me to gain experience and a professional qualification.

"My fees are paid for by my employer and I study at college one day a week."

She added: "In my opinion, more young people should look at vocational qualifications as an alternative to university.

"In the current climate it's not enough to have a degree, you need skills and experience to get the edge over competitors."

Ex rough sleeper Carlton Loo with Porchlight's Anne Norris

Homeless complete employment course

FORMER homeless and vulnerable people are celebrating after graduating from an employability programme.

The four-month course, run by Kent-wide homelessness charity Porchlight and accredited by the Open College Network, was developed to make the charity's service-users more employable.

Dave Webster, jobs, education and training manager for Porchlight, said the organisation has identified a gap between its service-users' aspirations and what is available for them.

"In today's competitive jobs market simply having volunteering experience is not enough," he said.

"Many of the people who access our services express a wish to 'give something back' and help others with similar experiences. The programme gives those people transferable skills, knowledge and experience that we as an employer ourselves know to be valuable."

Pull out your Review section opposite to read JobsforKent.co.uk, starting on page 65

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Senior & General Appointments 65-67
Public Sector Vacancies 68-69
Jobs for Kent 70-71
Public Notices 71-72

TO ADVERTISE: TELEPHONE: **01892 458204** | FAX: **01303 817004** | EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk**

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Local Food Company require
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No experience necessary, full training provided. Excellent rates of pay and good prospects.
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West Kent YMCA
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£8k + Health + Pension
Closing 26/8/10
Interview 2/9/10
www.WestKentYMCA.org.uk
Andrea 07889707824

ANTONIOU Hair and Beauty
Require
HAIRSTYLIST
(minimum 4 years' experience)
Tel: 01233 633171

To advertise in this section
01892 458204

We require part time
COMMUNITY CARE WORKERS
for Ashford Area and the Marsh.
Applicants must have their own vehicle.
We offer flexible shifts, which include mornings, evenings and weekends.
We provide full training, uniform, equipment, CRB check and weekly pay at good rates.
Please call 01797 361889 for an application form or E-mail: countryfolkcare@hotmail.co.uk

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OPPORTUNITIES IN MAIDSTONE AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES, CANTERBURY AND FOLKESTONE

A more rewarding role? How about providing high-quality care for older people, so they can live independently in their own homes? We'll give you full training, so you don't need experience. If you can make a real difference, we can offer a career path that could take you from Carer to Area Supervisor or even Management level. You must have your own transport though. Our excellent benefits include:

- Paid mileage
- Free life assurance
- Pension and uniform
- Paid holidays and paid CRB check

For more information and to find out when our next recruitment open day is being held, or to apply, please call 01303 757399 and quote reference SIL422.

saga.co.uk

SAGA
Caring done properly

West Kent YMCA
The Horizon Project, Edenbridge
2 posts @ £18-24k pens+health
Qualified Painter/Decorator Key Worker
Training young people 14-19
Closes 30/8/10 - Interviews 3/9/10
www.WestKentYMCA.org.uk
jobs@WestKentYMCA.org.uk
Elizabeth 01892542209 Angi 07872 987 764

PAINTERS
required must have UTR number and CSCS card. Must have experience in new build.
Call 01322 666955

Scott Care Ltd

Exciting roles – for those who care

Service Manager Sittingbourne Branch

As Service Manager, you'll lead our team on adult protection issues and quality assurance, pushing our high standards even further. Whether it's sharing out daily assignments or communicating with care management teams to help improve the lives of our service users. You will work in partnership with KCC, managing our 'out of hours' team, Care Coordinators and Team Leaders. Transport and experience in care is essential. Please call number below for an application pack.

Tel: 0845 680 0506 www.scottcare.co.uk

Independent Care & Support Ltd
currently have the following vacancies for:
- **Weekend Staff**
- **Evening Staff**
- **Full Time Staff**

Must be flexible.
Car and telephone essential.
In return we offer excellent rates of pay, petrol and travel allowances, training up to NVQ Level.
For more information, please ring 01634 730004 (during office hours)

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Full training provided
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Immediate start – long term prospects
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Scott Care Ltd

Exciting roles – for those who care
Ashford & Sittingbourne Branches now open recruiting

Care Workers

With support from our Care Workers, service users can stay in their homes and still receive assistance and personal care. From preparing meals to helping out with shopping, you'll be a vital social link for those who rarely go out – or simply can't. You'll need a car and mobile phone, but we'll provide a uniform and pay for mileage. Experience isn't essential, as we offer full training. We pay a higher rate of pay for NVQ Qualified Care Workers. Please call number below for an application pack.

Tel: 0845 680 0506 www.scottcare.co.uk

Experienced Care Staff Required
for family run residential care home
Minimum requirement MVQ2
Good rates of pay, dependent on experience.
For more information, contact Amanda on
01227 721527

Community Drug Workers

1 x full time East Kent
1 x full time 6 month temporary contract East Kent
1 x full time 9 month temporary contract East Kent
1 x part time 6 month temporary contract West Kent

£21,519 – £27,849 per annum pro rata
Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,239 per annum pro rata

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service.

Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable. A qualification to diploma level in a relevant area – nursing, counselling or social work for example is essential. As for your future, there is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk Alternatively, you can email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference number 695.

Closing date: 20 August 2010 at 5.00pm
Interview date: 9 September 2010 in Ashford.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.
Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

Progressive, Responsive, Effective

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The Meditation Trust

Registered Charity No. 1081218
Independent Teachers of
TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION
(Simple, effortless Yoga for the mind)
REQUIRE

OFFICE MANAGER

Job Share, 16 hours weekly rising to 24. One morning a week plus afternoons. Also covering mornings for holidays and other absence.

Flexible and enthusiastic individual able to work with our current Office Manager to support our small but growing team of professional teachers covering Britain and Ireland. Requires efficiency and skill to develop the office management; sympathetic telephone manner with enquirers and energetic promotional skills with partners such as doctors, therapists, yoga teachers, business and the media.

A varied and challenging position, but low- stress as there are, at present, no staff to manage!

REQUIRES experience of Microsoft Office and Outlook, plus lively practical knowledge of use of the most up to date computer program's.

APPLICATIONS WITH C.V. TO: Colin & Sue Beckley, Directors,
The Meditation Trust, 51 Station Road, Birchington, CT7 9DJ

FOR INFO PACK ABOUT TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION COURSES CALL 01843 841010

the fabric warehouse

Assistant Store Manager

Salary dependent on experience from £13K

As a leading fabric store we have a vacancy for an enthusiastic Assistant Store Manager. Retail experience is essential as well as excellent sales & people management skills. Ideally you will have 2-3 years supervisory experience. Please email your CV & covering letter to sb@caldeira.com

Fabric Warehouse Maidstone, Unit 14-15
Industrial Business Centre, St Peter's Street,
Maidstone ME16 0ST

The future of local media

Would you like to be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent's towns and districts?

Media Sales Executives
We have an opportunity for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market-leading portfolio of newspapers and magazines.

We're not looking for people to just take orders; we're looking for people who can provide first class solutions for our customers.
We believe good customer service is at the heart of our success and we want to recruit people who can develop excellent business relationships and present effective and innovative ideas that will provide real value and response for our customers.

Telesales Team Leader (office based)
As with the above vacancy we are also looking for an experienced telephone sales executive who is seeking to further their career, as well as develop and enhance our telephone sales team.

Digital Sales Executives
You will play the key role in selling advertising and sponsorship across our market-leading portfolio of websites and mobile products.

Candidates will possess a proven track record in media sales, combining excellent communication and presentation skills, a great business acumen, tenacity, and the ability to build positive business relationships. Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured sales technique, a positive manner and great all-round organisation and IT skills.

Events and Exhibitions Sales Executive
You will play the key role in selling and coordinating our groups events, exhibitions and sponsorship across our market-leading portfolio of newspapers, magazines, show guides, websites and mobile products.

All vacancies come with the opportunity to earn high bonus potential, which is uncapped and based on your skills and desire to achieve major market share gains.

We're looking for professional individuals who are able to take ownership for their client group and work on their own initiative. Above all you will need to deliver total commitment and dedication to the business to help us continue to be the very best.

Applicants must have a full and valid manual driving licence. Ideal candidates will be computer literate with a sales/marketing background and the ability to provide industry-leading customer service.

Sales, Marketing and Data Administrator
Your role will be to champion our brands and strive to deliver the best marketing and administration solutions through print and online media as well as events.

Your enthusiasm will be for the organisation and delivery of first class database building, servicing reader offers and many other product services, including attending some of our sponsored events.

You will be resourceful and creative and will be expected to work independently at times. No two days will be the same, so you must enjoy working in a fast-paced environment.

You will be a good all-round administrator and have the ability to adapt to a wide range of tasks.

Other Vacancies
KOS Media is always interested to hear from people with ideas who would be interested in a career in multi-media, within local or regional markets.

Whatever your skill set and experience is, please do tell us about yourself and send in your CV, with a covering letter, telling us what you have to offer and how you see yourself working at an innovative media company such as KOS Media.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

To apply send your CV with covering letter to:
Jason Pyne, Development Director
KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.
Or by email: jason.pyne@kosmedia.co.uk

About us
KOS Media publishes the UK award-winning Kent on Sunday newspaper and a series of free weekly newspapers, magazines and associated websites and mobile products.

The company produces kentnews.co.uk and yourkentTV, an internet-based TV service providing regional and local news, business and sport, plus websites for jobs, property and motors.

KOS Media's newspapers have won more than 10 national awards, including UK Regional Newspaper of the Year, and UK Free Weekly Newspaper of the Year six times.

In June, 2010, media group Archant purchased KOS Media.

Archant is the UK's largest independently owned regional media business

It is a community media company active in the fields of regional newspaper and magazine publishing, contract printing and internet communications. All its titles serve clearly defined communities, based around locations or interest groups.

Archant can trace its roots back more than 160 years and today remains one of the country's largest independent media businesses. As a private company it employs 1,850 people right across England. It has an annual turnover of £142 million.

The newspaper division, Archant Regional, produces four daily regional newspapers and around 60 weekly titles with a combined circulation of 2.25 million copies every week. It is a UK top six regional newspaper publisher. It also publishes many of the group's 180 websites and a number of its magazines.

Archant also owns three magazine companies, which between them produce around 80 magazines.

KOS media

Award Winning Company

KOS Media is a division ARCHANT REGIONAL

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Full time Trainee Sales Negotiator for Residential Sales

Due to an increase in business Connells Estate Agents in Tunbridge Wells are looking for a trainee to build a career within Residential Sales. Ideally the candidate will have previous sales experience, educated to GCSE level and be computer literate. Connells have won National and Regional Awards including Best Training Provider and Business of the Year Awards.

Saturday Person (holiday cover)

required for busy Tunbridge Wells office. Duties include registering applicants, arranging and conducting viewings. (Clean driving license and own car essential). Our hours of work are 9am until 5pm. Mature applicants welcome.

To join this exciting company and to learn more about either role please email your CV and covering letter for the attention of Geoff Stevens, Branch Manager to tunbridgewells@connells.co.uk or write to 5 Vale Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2BS.

Closing deadline 23rd August

Connells

To advertise in this section

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Are you...

confident
competitive
determined
hard working.

Do you enjoy a challenge and **have a 'can do' attitude?**

We are looking to recruit highly driven, experienced sales professionals able to work under pressure to deadline and target, in our fast-paced advertising department.

We Offer:

- Good Basic Salary
- Performance and revenue related bonuses
- Five weeks holiday a year

To join a visionary and exciting media company, please contact Christine Davidson on 01303 817040 or email your CV and covering note to christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS media Award Winning Company

KOS Media is a division ARCHANT REGIONAL

Named Drug Workers (YOT)

Medway – 37 hours per week
£21,519 - £27,849, plus an Essential Car User Allowance up to £1,239

This post includes managing a caseload of young people (10 – 18 yrs) who are involved in the Youth Offending Service and are misusing drugs and/or alcohol and experiencing complex difficulties These may include concerns around mental health safeguarding homelessness, offending and chaotic substance misuse.

We are looking for someone with good substance misuse knowledge, excellent communication and casework skills and proven experience of working with young people presenting with complex needs. Possession of, or working towards, a relevant professional qualification is essential.

For an application form please visit our website www.kca.org.uk, email recruitment@kca.org.uk or telephone 01795 590795 Option 3. Please quote ref 698.

Closing date: 26 August 2010
Interview date: 7 September 2010

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.
Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

Progressive, Responsive, Effective

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You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

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THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Plaster Technician

To join our Flexi Bank

Closing date for applications – 31 August 2010

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Sue Bowe, Outpatient Sister - 01843 234555 Ext: 63425

For job description and application form please contact:

Mandy Oliver or Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 • Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: mandy.oliver@thespencerwing.com
or jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

To advertise in this section

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Following the recent merger of West Kent College and South Kent College, we are looking forward to an exciting future of growth and development. Combining the resources, commitment and ambition of our teams, the new College has campuses stretching right across Kent, from Ashford, Dover and Folkestone to Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

Would you like to make a real contribution to Further Education? We are looking for individuals experienced in their profession to join us who have a passion for learner achievement and success. We currently have the following opportunities available:

- **Lecturer in Catering**
  (Fixed term until 31/07/11) Variable hours - Dover
- **Lecturer in Public Services**
  (Fixed term until 31/07/11) Variable hours - Folkestone
- **Lecturer in Trowel Trades**
  (Fixed term until 31/07/11) Variable hours - Ashford
- **Lecturer in ESOL**
  18.5 hours per week - Folkestone
- **Lecturer in Motor Vehicle**
  37 hours per week - Dover
- **Lecturer in Sports & Sports Massage**
  29.6 hours per week - Folkestone

If you feel any of these roles are the challenge you are looking for please visit our website for full details: www.southkent.ac.uk or contact us for an application pack: 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone); email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of completed applications for these posts is 12pm, Monday 23rd August 2010.

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

SKC New College coming soon

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Advanced Skills Lecturer in Civil Engineering *Ref: P0333*

Salary: £40,512 per annum
Maidstone

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in leading the development of Civil Engineering programmes across the Faculty of Design and Construction. The successful candidate will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold a Degree or higher qualification in Civil Engineering or a related specialism. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 20 August 2010
INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD THE WEEK COMMENCING 30 AUGUST 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College | Investors in Diversity | Positive About Disabled People | RBLI | Investor in People | MidKent College

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Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

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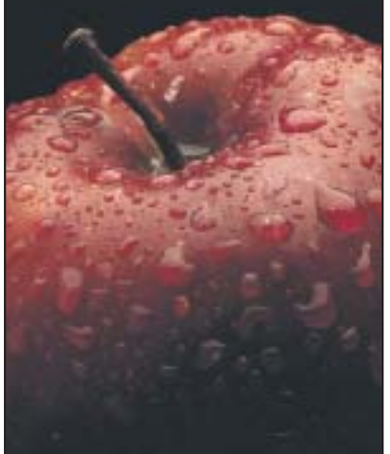
Find teaching jobs online



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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Additional Learning Support Tutor/Assessor Ref: P0557

Salary: £24,792 - £28,311 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to assist with learning support for students with additional learning support needs. The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate experience in and knowledge of tutoring, assessing and supporting learners with difficulties and disabilities. The successful candidate will hold a recognised assessing certificate.

Lecturer in Hair Ref: P0496

26 hours per week Salary: £25,181 - £27,881 pro rata Fixed Term Maternity Cover Medway

We have an exciting opportunity to recruit a passionate individual to teach, assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes. The applicant must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous. Please note, hourly paid roles are also available. Please indicate when submitting your application which post you are applying for.

Hourly Paid Facilitators Ref: SE896

Salary: £8.96 - £11.26 (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway/Maidstone

We are looking to recruit sessional facilitators to join our successful Foundation Learning Team, working with students who have learning difficulties/disabilities. The ideal candidates will have experience of working with young people and are able to offer hours to suit the College timetables.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 25 August 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from **www.midkent.ac.uk**. Alternatively, please e-mail **job.applications@midkent.ac.uk**. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Primary, Secondary and SEN.

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or email
enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

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PART-TIME KITCHEN ASSISTANT

Required from late September 2010. Duties will include distribution of food for the evening meals to residential staff, washing up returned dishes and general kitchen cleaning. The hours are 3.30pm to 7.00pm every Monday to Thursday and 3.30pm to 7.00pm on alternate Fridays. This is an average of 15.75 hours per week and is term time only.

The salary is at Kent Scheme Band 2 points 4 to 7 which is £4529 to £4949 per year (£6.69 to £7.31 per hour).

Stone Bay School is committed to the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children and employees are required to have an enhanced CRB disclosure.

If you are interested in applying for this post please phone (01843 863421), e-mail (finance@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk) or write to Mrs Ann Hickmott, Stone Bay School, 70 Stone Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1EB for an application form. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 1st September 2010, and interviews will be held the following week.

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A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online

Accountancy

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Wellness Practice
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

ASSISTANT BOOK-KEEPER
Canterbury
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
Burgess Hodgson Chartered Accountants
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TRAINEE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Canterbury
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
Burgess Hodgson Chartered Accountants
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Finance and HR Officer
Chatham
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
Bishop of Rochester Academy
Stuns001@medway.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Wellness Practice
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Receptionist / Customer Service
Canterbury
Salary negotiable
To apply/more information:
Wellness Practice
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: cust 001

Residential Conveyancing Secretary
Gravesend
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
Martin Tolhurst Partnership Solicitors
ccraigie@martintolhurst.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Formulation Management Administrator
Kent
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
CPL Aromas Ltd
phil.bowling@cplaromas.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

RECEPTIONIST
Hythe
Salary TBA
RECEPTIONIST REQUIREDInitially for 6 months only but with a view topossible permanent position after initial period. 20 Hrs per week 3 mornings and 2 evenings - must be flexibleApply in writing with CV to Mrs Jill Blackman,Practice Manager, Sun Lane Surgery, 5 Sun Lane,Hythe, Kent. CT21 5JX or jill.blackman2@nhs.netClosing date Friday 30th July
To apply/more information:
Sun Lane Surgery
jill.blackman2@nhs.net
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Project Officer
Sheerness
Salary £27,695 to £34,194
To apply/more information:
Swale Borough Council
tracysimler@swale.gov.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 208ED4

Early Intervention in Psychosis Team Employment Advisor
Kent
Salary £22,367-£23,921
mcch is a charitable organisation committed to designing and delivering services,based on the unique qualities of each individual, to people with learning disabilities,autism or mental health needs.Early Intervention in Psychosis Team Employment Advisor Ref: 738/E£22,367-£23,921There are exciting opportunities to be a part of the mcch team providing employmentand vocational services to individuals to achieve their employment and vocationalaspirations by providing information, advice and guidance and support to access andretain paid employment. All successful applicants will be able to demonstrate acommitment to supporting individuals in their employment pathway.Working directly with the EIP teams in partnership with other statutory and VCSorganisations to develop early intervention supported employment and vocational initiatives for individuals with mental health issues accessing services. To supportindividuals in order to facilitate the recovery process through paid employment, workrelated, education and training opportunities.For an application form and job description email jobs@mcch.co.uk or apply on lineat www.mcch.co.uk alternatively call 0845 600 1552. Please quote ref. We alsohave large type/Braille versions available on request. Allappointments are subject to a CriminalRecords Disclosure.
To apply/more information:
MCCH
j.pearce@mcch.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 738/E

Office Junior
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
Office Junior Required
To apply/more information:
Piper Windows
piper@piperwindows.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administrative Assistant
Faversham
Salary £16,830 - £19,126 pro rata
30 hours per week (4 days) Based Faversham KCA (UK) PsychologicalTherapy Providers (PTP) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. You will provide an excellent administrative and secretarial service to the PTP team, so you will need proficiency in copy typing, minute- taking and data in-putting, as well as experience of working independently. A sound understanding and experience of using a range of computer applications, including Microsoft Access and Excel, are required. An understanding of statistics and basic data analysis is desirable, although a willingness to learn would be acceptable. You will need to be able to respond to people in a professional manner and have good communication skills. Should you wish to discuss this role informally, please contact Smita Derodra or Karl Grice on 01795 590212. Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference number 688. Closing date: Friday 6 August 2010. Interview date:Thursday 19 August 2010. KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity No: 292824. www.kca.org.uk
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
admin@kca.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 688

Sales Co-Ordinator
Wrotham Area
Salary c£17,500 + excellent benefits
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1692

Finding staff
24-7
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To advertise in this section or online
01892 458204

Catering, Hospitality

MID DAY SUPERVISORS
Gravesend
Salary Pro rata £1,815
To apply/more information:
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
enquiries@ggsg.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales People
Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
Black Tie Foods Ltd
Sales People required. No experience necessary. Full training and vehicle provided. Call 01732 760484.
To apply/more information:
Black Tie Foods Ltd
blacktie@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering Assistant
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Family Investment Homes Ltd
applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Bar Waiting staff
Sittingbourne
Salary Negotiable
Part time bar waiting staff required for village pub near Sittingbourne Own transport, 18 + Varied shifts Please phone 01795 842546.
To apply/more information:
Harrow (The)
lindapriest611@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Butcher
Dartford
Salary TBA
Richardson & Sons require a Butcher. High class trade. General duties. Experience required. Please call 01322 223111.
To apply/more information:
Richardson & Sons
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chef de Partie or Sous Chef
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Prince of Wales
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

KITCHEN ASSISTANT
Broadstairs
Salary £4529 to £4949 per year
To apply/more information:
Stone Bay School
office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Child Care

ALL PRIMARY TEACHERS NEEDED
Kent
Salary £115 per day
Are you looking for supply work? We have a shortage of Primary teachers across the whole of Kent! We are turning down work from schools as we have a shortage across both key stages. All applicants must have the relevant teaching qualifications. NQTs welcome! Excellent pay rates! + NEW Loyalty Scheme! Visit our new website at www.education-sense.com or email CVs to kturner@education-sense.com
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: PRI1

Care Worker
Ramsgate
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
Bluesky Childrens Services Ltd
blueskychildrenservices@gmail.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

ALL PRIMARY TEACHERS NEEDED
Kent
Salary £115 per day
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: PRI1

ALL NURSERY NURSES URGENTLY NEEDED
Maidstone
Salary £7 per hour
We are currently looking to employ Nursery Nurses/ Assistants! Day-to-Day supply work in and around the Maidstone area. Term time and throughout the holidays! MUST HAVE either 2 years experience in a nursery setting or NVQ Level 2 or equivalent. Very good rates of pay!!! + NEW Loyalty Scheme! NOTE: This is NOT an advert for a permanent post.
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: NNUR

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

EXHIBITION LABOURER/DRIVER
Gravesend
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
Exhibitions Stands Manufacturers Ltd
mail@esm-uk.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Carpenters
Canterbury
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
M & S Contractors E A Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Carpenters
Dartford
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
M & S Contractors E A Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Customer Service, Call Centre

Sales Office Manager
Kent
Salary c£30,000+ benefits
A long established building products manufacturer who have enjoyed expansion and development are looking for a new Sales Office Manager to lead and motivate the internal sales function, taking them from an order team to a sales team. With at least a year's experience in a similar role you will be responsible for developing and managing training programmes to best practice managing transport costs and contributing to IT research and development projects. Excellent communication skills and an understanding of business finance and problem solving competencies are all essential elements of this fast paced role. West Kent based.
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1691

Contact Centre Sales Consultants
Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Trailblazer Travel
info.ashford@trailblazertravel.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Flexible Working
Kent
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
Syntos
nigel.gethins@syntos.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales Co-Ordinator
Wrotham Area
Salary c£17,500 + excellent benefits
Our client is looking for someone with natural leadership skills and a background of experience as a sales co-ordinator within a pressurised environment. Duties will include handling quotes, processing orders through to delivery including liaison with transport and clients and upselling where possible. You will have commercial acumen, excellent communication skills and high levels of drive and motivation. Rota's shifts are 8.00 - 4.00 and 9.00 - 5.00. Due to location own transport is essential.
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1692

Commission only Sales People
Ashford
Salary Commission Only
To apply/more information:
KOS Media
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Field Sales
Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
We are looking for an exceptional sales person for a field sales position covering the Maidstone area. Only hard working, tenacious and motivated professionals need apply. Ideally from a sales background you will understand the importance of balancing good customer service with achieving targets. Media experience is not essential as training will be given.
KOS Media is one of the fastest growing multi media companies serving the Kent county. We publish 14 weekly newspapers including the flagship Kent on Sunday together with seasonal /annual magazines and 20 online news sites. We offer a good basic salary, performance and target related bonus and 5 weeks holiday. So if you think you have what it takes to join our sales teams send your CV to ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk quoting fieldsales or telesales position.
To apply/more information:
KOS Media
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domestic

CLEANER
Hythe
Salary TBA
CLEANER REQUIRED10 hrs per week (2 hours per day) either early mornings or evenings after 6.30pmApply to Mrs Jill Blackman, Practice Manager, Sun Lane Surgery, 5 Sun Lane,Hythe, Kent CT21 5JX or jill.blackman2@nhs.net Closing date Friday 30th July.
To apply/more information:
Sun Lane Surgery
jill.blackman2@nhs.net
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Site Maintenance Technician
Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099-£15,984
To apply/more information:
Westlands School (The)
headteacher@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Venue Maintenance Team Leader
Dartford
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
MotorSport Vision Ltd
joanne.brown@motorsportvision.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domestic Trades

Lecturer in Electrical Installation
Medway
Salary £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: P0357

Direct Sales Consultant
Chatham
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
M & S Contractors E A Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Education, Teacher, School

SENIOR COVER SUPERVISOR
Gravesend
Salary Pro rata £13,404.60
35 hours per week - Term Time and Development Days Only (i.e. 39 weeks per year plus paidholiday entitlement) Salary at KCS Band 5, initially Point 14 Pro rata £13,404.60 (full time £16,793)A methodical and organised person is required to arrange classroom cover at Gravesend Grammar School forGirls.You will be arranging cover for absent teachers using our in-house cover supervisors and a variety of ad-hocpersonnel and part time staff. Accuracy and attention to detail is essential.When not engaged in arranging coveryou will be required to cover classes as detailed below.All roles are required from September 2010. Application forms and further details are available from the SchoolOffice. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of Mrs E Wilson, Headteacherno later than Wednesday 14th July.Interviews will be held on the 19th or 20th July 2010.Gravesend Grammar School for GirlsA Foundation SchoolPelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE Telephone: 01474 352896Fax: 01474 331195 Website: www.ggsg.org.uk email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk
To apply/more information:
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
enquiries@ggsg.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

COVER SUPERVISOR / EXAMS ASSISTANT
Gravesend
Salary Pro rata £12,116.76
To apply/more information:
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
enquiries@ggsg.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

COVER SUPERVISOR
Gravesend
Salary Pro rata £11,847.48
To apply/more information:
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
enquiries@ggsg.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

MATHS AND LANGUAGE TECHNICIAN
Gravesend
Salary Pro rata £11,897.28
To apply/more information:
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
enquiries@ggsg.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

MID DAY SUPERVISORS
Gravesend
Salary Pro rata £1,815
To apply/more information:
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
enquiries@ggsg.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Electrical Installation
Medway
Salary £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: P0357

Lecturer in Foundation Programmes
Medway
Salary £24,096 - £28,963 pro rata
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: P0121

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To advertise in this section or online
01892 458204

Additional Learning Support Tutor/ Assessor
Medway
Salary £24,792 - £28,311 per annum
Additional Learning Support Tutor/Assessor Ref: P0378Salary: £24,792 - £28,311 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience)Hourly paid roles also available Maidstone/ Medway. We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to assist with learning support for students with additional learning support needs. The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate experience in and knowledge of tutoring, assessing and supporting learners with difficulties and disabilities. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised assessing certificate. MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability orhealth condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further informationregarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit theirwebsite www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff andvolunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with theCollege procedureApplication forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In allcommunication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: P0378

Personal Tutor
Maidstone
Salary £20,674 - £23,212 per annum
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: P0499

Technician in Hair and Beauty
Medway
Salary £15,453 - £17,243 per annum
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: P0277

Information and Guidance Triage
Medway
Salary £15,453 - £17,243 per annum
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: P0131

Hourly Paid Facilitators
Medway
Salary Hourly Rate: £8.96 - £11.26
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: SE560

Front Line Events Co-ordinator
Medway
Salary £16,005 - £19,127 per annum
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: M0450

House Pastoral Manager
Folkestone
Salary Equates to £20,063
To apply/more information:
Folkestone Academy
sally.taylor@folkestoneacademy.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Child Care and Health Care
Medway
Salary £24,096 - £28,963 per annum
MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:Lecturer in Child Care and Health Care Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway We are looking for a knowledgeable and

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experienced candidate to deliver CACHE Child Care and Health and Social Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous. Closing date: Friday 30 July 2010MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.
MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Public Services
Medway
Salary £24,096 - £28,963 per annum
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teacher of English
Sittingbourne
Salary TBA
To apply/more information: Sittingbourne Community College office@ sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

ALL PRIMARY TEACHERS NEEDED
Kent
Salary £115 per day
To apply/more information: Education Sense office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: PRI1

CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIST
Chatham
Salary Sessional Daily Rate £150 min per day/Term Time Only
To apply/more information: Education Sense office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: ART-THER

Site Maintenance Technician
Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099-£15,984
Site Maintenance Technician/ Caretaker
Required for September 2010
To work at The Westlands Primary School, Homewood Avenue 37 hours a week from 6:00am - 2:00pm Mondays-Friday Kent Pay Band 3 - £14,099-£15,984 Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis. Applicants must be prepared to work a variety of hours should the need arise. The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team, linemanaged by the Site Manager. As well as general caretaking duties the successful applicant will be expected to undertake site maintenance, and so a good working knowledge and experience with carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating is essential. An awareness of swimming pool maintenance would be an advantage. You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Closing date, Monday 9th August 2010 The Westlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check. Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF www.westlands.kent.sch.uk Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461 Email: office@westlands.kent.sch.uk Executive Headteacher: J Whitcombe MA.
To apply/more information: Westlands School (The) headteacher@ westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chaplain
Chatham
Salary TBA
To apply/more information: Bishop of Rochester Academy Stuns001@medway.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

ICT Manager
Chatham
Salary TBA
To apply/more information: Bishop of Rochester Academy Stuns001@medway.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Activity Leader Apprenticeship
Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Amacsports Ltd jeanette@amacsports.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Head of Division for Technology
Broadstairs
Salary £41,974 - £48,128
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Head of Division for Life and Work
Broadstairs
Salary £41,974 - £48,128
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Head of Division for Student Support
Broadstairs
Salary £41,974 - £48,128
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Programme Area Manager - Foundation Vocational
Broadstairs
Salary £33,917 - £38,358
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Programme Area Manager - Construction
Broadstairs
Salary £33,917 - £38,358
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Cross Curriculum Manager - 14 to 19
Broadstairs
Salary £33,917 - £38,358
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Cross Curriculum Manager - Employability & Community
Broadstairs
Salary £33,917 - £38,358
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

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01303 817040

Cross Curriculum Manager - Higher Education
Broadstairs
Salary £33,917 - £38,358
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Cross Curriculum Manager - Additional Learning Support
Broadstairs
Salary £33,917 - £38,358
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teaching Assistant
Folkestone
Salary TBA
To apply/more information: Folkestone Primary Academy applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

STUDY AND COVER SUPERVISOR
Folkestone
Salary Equates to £15,125
To apply/more information: Folkestone Academy sally.taylor@folkestoneacademy.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

KITCHEN ASSISTANT
Broadstairs
Salary £4529 to £4949 per year
To apply/more information: Stone Bay School office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Travel and Tourism
Medway
Salary £24,096 - £27,881 per annum/pro rata
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: P0154

LESSON SUPERVISOR
Sittingbourne
Salary £16,793 rising to £18,471 pro-rata
To apply/more information: Westlands School (The) headteacher@ westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teaching Assistant
Sittingbourne
Salary £12,903 - £15,984 pro rata
To apply/more information: Westlands School (The) headteacher@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

ALL PRIMARY TEACHERS NEEDED
Kent
Salary £115 per day
To apply/more information: Education Sense office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: PRI1

ALL SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHERS
Kent
Salary Great Rates + Loyalty Scheme
To apply/more information: Education Sense office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: ASEN

ALL NURSERY NURSES URGENTLY NEEDED
Maidstone
Salary £7 per hour
To apply/more information: Education Sense office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: NNUR

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Fully Qualified MOT Tester
Herne Bay
Salary TBA
To apply/more information: County Garage (Sales) Ltd carole@countygarageford.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Site Maintenance Technician
Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099-£15,984
To apply/more information: Westlands School (The) headteacher@ westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Full Time Double Glazed Installer/ Engineer
Faversham
Salary To be advised
To apply/more information: Southeast Care Ltd southeastcare@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Full Time Double Glazed Installer/ Engineers
Faversham
Salary To be advised
To apply/more information: SouthEast WindowCare Ltd info@se-windowcare.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Tyre Fitter
Longfield
Salary Dependant on Experience
To apply/more information: Falkham Tyres kfkennedy@talktalk.net
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Continuous Improvement Facilitator
Hythe
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: H V Wooding Ltd jolson@hvwooding.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Beauty

Community Leaders
Faversham
Salary TBA
To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Gym Instructor Apprenticeship
Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: AMACSports Ltd jeanette@amacsports.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Activity Leader Apprenticeship
Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Amacsports Ltd jeanette@amacsports.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Safety, Security, Defence

CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIST
Chatham
Salary Sessional Daily Rate £150 min per day/Term Time Only
To apply/more information: Education Sense office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: ART-THER

HR, Recruitment

Training Co-ordinator - 3-4 month Contract (maternity cover)
Kings Hill
Salary Attractive
To apply/more information: Charities Aid Foundation applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: AV632

Early Intervention in Psychosis Team Employment Advisor
Kent
Salary £22,367-£23,921
To apply/more information: MCCH j.pearce@mcch.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 738/E

Finance and HR Officer
Chatham
Salary TBA
To apply/more information: Bishop of Rochester Academy Stuns001@medway.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

Continuous Improvement Facilitator
Hythe
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: H V Wooding Ltd jolson@hvwooding.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

ICT Manager
Chatham
Salary TBA
To apply/more information: Bishop of Rochester Academy Stuns001@medway.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Insurance, Banking, Finance

Customer Service Representative
Kings Hill
Salary £14,500 per annum
To apply/more information: Charities Aid Foundation applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ST631

Legal

Residential Conveyancing Secretary
Gravesend
Salary TBA
To apply/more information: Martin Tolhurst Partnership Solicitors ccraigie@martintolhurst.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Technician in Hair and Beauty
Medway
Salary £15,453 - £17,243 per annum
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: P0277

Retail Branch Managers
Kent
Salary up to £30,000
To apply/more information: Trailblazer Travel info.ashford@ trailblazertravel.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Tailor made Specialists
Kent
Salary £15,000 - £30,000
To apply/more information: Trailblazer Travel info.ashford@ trailblazertravel.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Cruise Specialists
Kent
Salary £15,000 - £25,000
To apply/more information: Trailblazer Travel info.ashford@ trailblazertravel.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Contact Centre Sales Consultants
Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Trailblazer Travel info.ashford@ trailblazertravel.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Community Leaders
Faversham
Salary TBA
Community Leaders Wanted
Make Money Helping Your Community!
Arriba! Wellness Clubs are looking for serious people from all backgrounds with an interest in health & wellness.
Creating extra income through helping their local community
Only 5 Serious People Needed
Call Sara 01795 532201
Apply online www.arriba-classleaders.co.uk
To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Seasonal Visitor Services Assistant
Dover
Salary £6.07 per hour
To apply/more information: AMACSports Ltd jeanette@amacsports.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Travel and Tourism
Medway
Salary £24,096 - £27,881 per annum/pro rata
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: P0154

Activity Leader Apprenticeship
Tonbridge
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Amacsports Ltd jeanette@amacsports.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

REACH Compliance Coordinator
Kent
Salary £25,000+
To apply/more information: Interpersonnel jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: JFK1687

Project Manager
Deal
Salary TBA
To apply/more information: North Deal Community Company chair@ northdealcommunity.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

PUBLIC NOTICE

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/02398/FUL **Former Gas Works St Davids Bridge, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Variation of conditions 16 and 17 of TW/10/00522 relating to landscaping: Environmental improvement works (remediation) to land (LB) (CA)

10/02474/FUL **Shepherds High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Conversion of existing coach house to ancillary annexe accommodation (CA) (LB)

10/02477/LBC **Shepherds High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Conversion of existing coach house to ancillary annexe accommodation (LB)

10/02066/FULMJ **Royal Oak Garage London Road, Goudhurst**
- Erection of new VOSA Testing Station and associated revised site layout including extension to yard area and relocation of security lodge (MAJOR)

10/02369/HOUSE **Pierce Barn Cottage Spray Hill, Lamberhurst**
- Extension of roof to provide a verandah (PROW)

10/02403/LBC **Coggers Hall School Hill, Lamberhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Repair to roof at the south end of the building involving repairing tiles, flashings and mortal where necessary and repairing one broken roof window (LB)

10/02467/HOUSE **Broad Meadows Free Heath Road, Lamberhurst**
- Free-standing photovoltaic panel system (PROW)

10/02518/FUL **Bayham Lake Estate Bayham Abbey, Lamberhurst**
- Erection of flood retaining embankment (LB)

10/02260/FUL **9 Belgrove Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Erection of balcony to ground floor and rear of dwelling and change window to french doors (CA)

10/02470/FUL **17 Calverley Park Crescent Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Change of use from B1 office to C3 residential (CA) (LB)

10/02397/HOUSE **48 Camden Court Chalket Lane, Pembury**
- Demolish existing detached garage and construct a single-storey ground floor extension (PROW) (CA) (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 14 August 2010

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

CHESTFIELD ROAD, CHESTFIELD & MILLSTROOD ROAD, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting traffic on Chestfield Road, Chestfield and Millstrood Road, Whitstable starting from 16 August 2010 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Chestfield Road, Chestfield will be closed from 16 August 2010 for a period of up to 5 days

The road will be closed in rolling sections between A2990 Thanet Way Roundabout to the junction with South Street at Radfall Corner, as signed on site.

The alternative route is via A2990 Thanet Way, Millstrood Road and South Street.

The various side roads leading from Chestfield Road will be closed at their junctions with Chestfield Road, as the works progress. These will be signposted on site, with local diversions set up.

Every effort will be made to maintain access for residents whenever it is safe to do so.

Millstrood Road, Whitstable will be closed from 22 August 2010 for up to 4 days.

The road will be closed in rolling sections between the A2290 Thanet Way and Belmont Road, as signed on site.

The alternative route is via A2990 Thanet Way, Church Street, Church Road, The Bridge Approach and Old Bridge Road.

The side roads leading from Millstrood Road will be closed at their junctions with Millstrood Road as signposted on site, with local diversions set up.

Every effort will be made to maintain access for residents whenever it is safe to do so.

BUSHEYFIELDS ROAD, HERNE AND BROOMFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of water mains renewal, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Busheyfields Road, Herne, on or after 31 August 2010 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length. There will be no access for though traffic between the junctions with Canterbury Road and Ridgeway Road.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road and Curtis Wood Road.

STURRY LEVEL CROSSING, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of track maintenance and repairs, the Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting traffic on Mill Road, Sturry at Sturry Level Crossing, on or after 5 September 2010 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

It is planned that the road will be closed from 2.00 am on Sunday 5 September through to 3.30 am on Monday 6 September 2010.

Mill Road, Sturry will be closed for a distance of 10 metres either side of the level crossing. There will be no access for though traffic between the junctions with High Street and Island Road.

The alternative route is:

For light vehicles and buses via Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, Sturry Road and Mill Road.

For vehicles over 7.5 Tonnes via A291 Canterbury Road, A299 Thanet Way, A290 Pean Hill & Whitstable Road, London Road, A2050 Rheims Way and A28 Ring Road.

Pedestrians will be escorted across the closure, but there might be some delays.

This Order remains in force for up to 18 months and can be re-implemented if required, for works of a similar nature.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

ST CLEMENTS WAY, SWANSCOMBE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on St Clements Way, Swanscombe from its junction with the roundabout at the top of the A2 off-slip to the junction with A226 London Road. (Road will only be closed in one direction at a time.)

The Order will become effective on 16th August 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 weeks between 00.00 – 06.00hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via:

Northbound closure – B255 Bean Road, A296 Watling Street, B2500 Watling Street, A226 The Bent / London Road.

Southbound closure – A226 London Road / The Brent, B2500Watling Street, A296 Watling Street, B255 Bean Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate all road markings to be refreshed and install new reflective road studs along the edge and centre of carriageway.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

LONDON ROAD & ST RADIGUND'S ROAD, DOVER (RESTRICTIONS ON TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of the gas mains replacement works in Coombe Valley Road and the use of St Radigund's Road as a diversion, the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting traffic on London Road & St Radigund's Road, Dover as shown below.

This is with effect from 16 August 2010 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The effect of this Order is as follows:

To prohibit waiting on London Road, Dover from the junction with St Radigund's Road northwards for a distance of approximately 25 metres

St Radigund's Road will become two-way between the junctions of Magdala Road and Lister Close

The east bound use of this section of road will be limited to buses on stage carriage services

The section of St Radigund's Road between Lister Close and London Road will remain two-way to allow access to and from Lister Close.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

LONDON ROAD, NORTHFLEET (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use of vehicular traffic on London Road, Northfleet between its junctions with Rural Vale and Burnaby Road.

The Order will become effective on 16th August 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 22nd August 2010 and last 1 night between 20.00 – 05.00hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: London Road, Thames Way, High Street, The Hill and London Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate high friction surfacing.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

BOUGHTON LANE & CRIPPLE STREET, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Boughton Lane from the junction with A229 Loose Road for approximately 70m on or after Saturday 21st August 2010 for 2 nights and Cripple Street from the junction with A229 Loose Road for approximately 60m on or after Saturday 28th August 2010 for 2 nights or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for Boughton Lane is A229 Loose Road, A229 Linton Road, Linton Crossroads, B2163 Heath Road Linton, Church Street Boughton Monchelsea, Beresford Hill, Bottlescrew Hill, Boughton Lane and vice versa. The alternative route for Cripple Street is via A229 Loose Road, Sheals Crescent, Old Tovil Road, Tovil Road, Tovil Hill, Straw Mill Hill, Cave Hill, Hayle Mill Road, Teasaucer Hill, Cripple Street and vice versa.

Walker Construction (UK) Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for carriageway resurfacing and road markings. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Andy Pilcher on 01303 851111.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

BRITTAINS LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Brittains Lane, Sevenoaks from Downsview Road to the Middlings.

The Order will become effective on 16th August 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 6 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the restriction above will be via: Brittains Lane, A224 London Road, Tubs Hill, London Road, Tonbridge Road, Oak Lane and Brittains Lane.

The purpose of t he closure is to facilitate Footway improvement and reconstruction of retaining wall.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

KERTON ROAD, LYDD-ON-SEA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Kerton Road, Lydd-on-Sea on or after 31 August 2010 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Dungeness Road and Coast Drive.

The alternative route is via Dungeness Road, Battery Road and Coast Drive.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

VIKING COASTAL TRAIL, MARGATE (RESTRICTIONS ON CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of landscaping works in connection with the construction of the Turner Contemporary and sea defence works, the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting cyclists and pedestrians on Viking Coastal Trail, Margate on or after 16 August 2010 for up to 33 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Viking Coastal Trail will be closed between Droit House and The RNLI Building. The alternative route is via Fort Hill and Fort Promenade.

The existing footway on the north-western side of Fort Hill will temporarily be converted to a shared footpath and cycle track for the duration of these works, and will then revert to a footway.

FAIRFIELD ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting traffic on Fairfield Road, Broadstairs, on or after 20 August 2010 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between A255 Broadstairs Road and the Rumfields Road/Bromstone Road Roundabout.

The alternative route is via Bromstone Road, A255 Ramsgate Road, Gladstone Road, Seafield Road, Osborne Road, A255 The Broadway, St Peter's Road and Broadstairs Road.

QUEENS ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of the removal of a tower crane from a building site, the Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting traffic on Queens Road, Broadstairs on or after 5 September 2010 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between High Street and Pierremont Avenue.

The alternative route is via High Street, Osbourne Road, Seafield Road, Gladstone Road and Ramsgate Road.

Note that if it is not possible to carry out these works on 5 September due to adverse weather conditions, it will be necessary to defer the works to one of the following 2 Sundays, i.e. 12 September or 19 September 2010.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

PINESFIELD LANE, TROTTISCLIFFE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Pinesfield Lane from the junction of Trosley Court for 150m towards "Larling" on or after Wednesday 1st September 2010 for a period of up to 3 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Church Lane, Taylors Lane, Pilgrims Way.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Keith White on 01233 714082.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Moat, London Road, Wrotham**

Applicant: **Andy Thompson**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

Kent County Council

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE

We Clocktower Express Ltd of 113, Wrotham Rd, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0QP hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Gravesham Borough Council, (Licensing Team) Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU for grant of a premises licence to permit the following licensable activities;

1. Sale of alcohol by retail

In respect of the premises situated at 140-143, Milton Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2RU and to be known by the sign of Best One Express

The application can be viewed at the offices of Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU during normal office hours (website address www.gravesham.gov.uk)

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authorityand within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 6th September 2010.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP
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More affordable Fords

By **STEVE LOADER**

FORD has flagged a major change of course by junking its long-running pricing policy.

The UK market leader pruned the retail price list for its larger models back in April, and has now done the same with its small to medium cars, notably the nation's two best sellers: the Fiesta supermini and Focus family hatchback.

Dealers themselves had begun the move for real world pricing anyway by offering significant discounts, but the game was up earlier this year when sectors of the motoring media started telling consumers they should haggle for discounts of up to 40 per cent in some cases.

The story wasn't new though: I road tested a fully-loaded Focus estate a few years ago and was impressed until I noted the list price of £24,000 – 'who will go shopping for a Ford priced at BMW money?' I asked then, though aware that savvy buyers would haggle.

Ford's recent attempts to re-position itself as more of a retail brand rather than a fleet badge had also made the more transparent pricing inevitable.

High list prices were maintained previously to allow the carmaker to tell company and lease fleet managers what bargains they were getting for their bulk buys.

But the world has moved on, and fleet managers scrutinise re-sale values more than purchase prices now, which is why the BMW 3-Series currently sits at ninth in the UK sales top 10, while the Mondeo – once the UK's best-seller – is conspicuous by its absence from motoring's top of the pops.

Fact is used car buyers will pay more for the BMW propellor badge second-hand than they will for Ford's blue oval, even though the latest car is far from being a fleet hack like its predecessor and Sierra and Cortina forebears.

With the brand's fleet presence less secure due to premium badges encroaching at the top end and cut-price Korean opposition nibbling at the bottom, Ford has been forced into raising quality and trim for the retail sector while bringing down retail prices.

In truth, it has developed some good cars and the Focus – though due for replacement soon – Fiesta, Mondeo and Kuga SUV can be bought on merit against cheaper and more expensive opposition.

The superb S-Max sporty MPV (pictured left) has also just scooped yet another award. This time it was the Auto Express Best MPV category at the magazine's awards – for the third successive year.

Auto Express editor-in-chief David Johns said: "With its eye-catching interior, razor-sharp chassis and adaptable seven-seat cabin, the people carrier benefitted from a thorough overhaul this year."

To this strong product line-up and the new pricing, can be added the brand's continuing leadership of the UK market so far this year, but the Focus and Fiesta's top positions are vulnerable to same sector top 10 rivals from Vauxhall (Astra and Corsa respectively) and VW (Golf and Polo).

And Ford can no longer play the 'made in Britain' card as the Transit van is now the only vehicle it makes in the UK, while Toyota, Nissan and Honda continue to build volume through UK production.

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Auto Express Driver Power 2009 & Driver Power 2010 Voted the UK's No.1 manufacturer. For the second year running!

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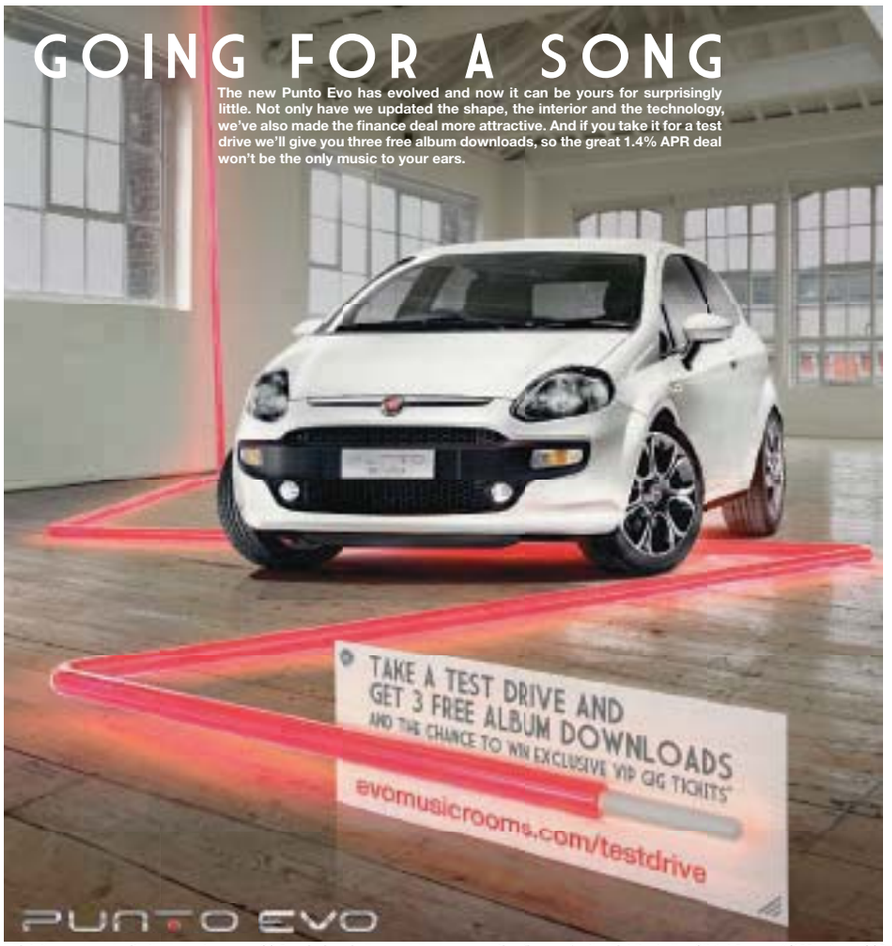
*VAT reduction (based on the VAT rate applicable at 25th May 2010) available on all Fabia models except for vRS and on all Octavia and all Roomster models. Prices & offers correct at time of going to press. We reserve the right to amend or withdraw offers without prior notice. This advert supercedes any previously advertised offers. Pictures for illustration purposes only. **Official fuel consumption in mpg for the Skoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 68.9 (4.1). CO2 emissions (g/km) Skoda range: 109–237.**



FIAT

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Balanced Financed	£9,140			TYPICAL APR	1.4%

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Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO 2 emissions in Europe.† Fuel consumption fi gures for the Fiat Punto Evo GP 1.4 8v mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions: Urban 38.2 (7.4), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 49.6 (5.7), CO2 emissions 132 g/km.
Terms & Conditions apply. Retail customers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. At participating dealers only. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. With Fiat i-Deal you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (10, 000 in this example) and being in good condition. Offer subject to status. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. Fiat Financial Services, PO Box 108, Leeds LS27 0WU. Offer ends 30th June 2010. *All entrants must be 18 or over and be a UK resident. All test drives must be taken by 20th June 2010. For full terms and conditions visit www.evomusicrooms.com. †Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on Volume-weighted average CO2 emissions g/km amongst Europe's top 25 selling brands during the year 2009.

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Warranty battles are ready to rage

TWO weeks ago we asked whether the motor market was about to erupt into a warranty war after Toyota broke ranks and junked the normal three-year/60,000 mile 'ticket'.

The Japanese and world number one was seeking to reassure consumers after a string of uncharacteristic recalls and also respond to the provocative decision by Korea's Kia to extend a seven year/100,000-mile package to all its cars – a deal previously available only on two models in the line-up.

It also countered a well-established five-year/unlimited warranty on Hyundais and, more recently, Chevrolet's decision to go for a five-year warranty and free servicing package.

If our prediction of warranty meltdown looked over-dramatic though, Vauxhall has now waded in with a shock 'lifetime warranty' on its cars, including the popular UK-built Astra.

To be precise, it applies to the first owner of the car and initial 100,000 miles, though Vauxhall plans to allow second owners to purchase the warranty.

Whatever the small print, it really throws down the gauntlet to industry reactionaries who still hold the three-year/60,000 line and particularly major players hogging the UK top ten – you know who you are Ford, VW and Renault.

Expect more announcements soon.

Driving
Has Toyota sparked the 'warranty war'?

WARNING: Our previous story

It's time for Abarth to shine

FIAT is using its Abarth sporting arm with far more marketing skill than it has ever done in the past.

A once proud name was devalued by so-so Abarth-branded products and the sloppy model development and reliability that dogged the Fiat empire, before the recent bounce back to profitability.

Now the scorpion badge Abarth is back with a strong line-up of fettled versions of mainstream Fiats, the latest being this sparky little roll-top convertible version of the Fiat 500 – the Abarth 500C (£17,500).

The powertrain is a 140bhp 1.4-litre turbocharged petrol engine plus Abarth Competizione gearbox allowing drivers to change gear using steering wheel paddles or simply push a button to convert to five-speed full automatic.

Yeti scales peak

SKODA'S Yeti crossover/SUV was named Car of the Year at the prestigious Auto Express magazine awards.

The top prize was one of five earned by the Czech manufacturer, with magazine editor David Johns praising the Yeti's versatility as both possible off-roader and compact MPV, without demanding "the dynamic or financial compromises usually associated with either".

He added: "The Skoda Yeti (from £13,990) mixes tough Tonka toy looks, sharp handling and a high-quality and spacious cabin with the brand's famed value-for-money pricing and customer service."

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FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR THE GRAND CHEROKEE S-LIMITED 3.0 V6 DIESEL IN MPG (L/100KM): URBAN 21.6 (13.1), EXTRA URBAN 32.8 (8.6), COMBINED 27.7 (10.2), CO_2 EMISSIONS IN G/KM 270.

*Model shown is a Grand Cherokee S-Limited at £33,995 OTR. Model features optional metallic paint at an additional £500 including VAT. On the road price includes Vehicle Excise Duty (VED), First Registration Fee and VAT. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to press (07/10). **Promotion available on new Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD S-Limited registered between 1st July and 30th September 2010 at participating dealers. Initial payment varies dependent on model and mileage, and is typically between 60% and 70%. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle, if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Chrysler Group Financial Services, PO BOX 108, Leeds LS27 0WU. Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

RoadTest by STEVELOADER

RenaultClio

When is an estate not an estate?

RENAULT offers a load-lugging version of its big-selling Clio supermini, but don't even think about calling it an estate.

It's the Clio Sport Tourer to you and me and packs 50 per cent more load space than the standard Clio hatch – one of the most capacious models in its class anyway.

What you lose though is the elegance and French chic this spin-off should inherit by right from its hatchback sister.

To be fair, the 'supermini estate' is one of the toughest styling briefs in the industry; superminis are pretty space-efficient anyway so you must add bulk to make an estate alternative worthwhile – ugliness tends to be an unfortunate side effect.

Skoda has boobed twice with successive Fabia load carriers, though Seat's new Ibiza ST sporting estate could be the real deal.

The Clio load lugger does not quite hit the mark though, and it's made all the worse by trying to dress it up with alloy roof rails and marketing hype like 'Sport Tourer' when it looks anything but.

However, you can't knock its practicality; a low 58cm rear sill height eases loading heavy or bulky items, rear seats can be folded flat without having to remove the headrests and there is a compartment to stow the rear parcel cover when not in use.

Prices start from £12,575, but our car was the flagship £16,085 Dynamique 86bhp 1.5-litre diesel with inbuilt TomTom sat nav system and generous spec, but starting to look expensive at this sort of money.

I'm a big fan of Renault's willing diesels, but the extra cabin space of the Sport Tourer allows a lot of booming intrusion from both the engine and the road. And while cabin trimming is quite smart in places, a luxurious leather-clad wheel and alloy highlights cannot disguise the fact that the materials were sourced for the more humble Clio models.

As usual, I also found Renault's sound system needlessly complicated.

The standard Clio driving dynamics are good though with a good balance of handling and comfort, though the car's styling does not quite have the 'mini-lifestyle estate' image that Renault wants that Sport Tourer label to suggest.

DrivingPortfolio

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE £16,085 1.5 DIESEL

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Spark 1.0 5dr: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO2 Emissions 119 g/km.

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AGILA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2008	58	Agila Club CDTi	1.3	5	Steel silver	10,450	7,995
2009	09	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlantis blue	9,350	8,995
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Lemon grass	1,350	9,495
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Moroccan blue	1,266	9,495
2009	59	Agila Club CDTi	1.3D	5	Steel silver	3,900	8,995
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Moroccan blue	5,150	9,295
2009	59	Agila Design Auto	1.2	5	Silver	2,355	10,750
2010	59	Agila Design	1.2	5	Lemon grass	2,790	8,995

ANTARA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2007	07	Antara CDTi Auto	2.0	5	Metro blue	20,000	11,995
2008	57	Antara CDTi E Auto	2.0	5	Slate blue	18,100	12,995
2009	59	Antara Exclusive CDTi	2.0D	5	Placid grey	2,020	17,495

ASTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	06	Astra Active	1.6	5	Ultra blue	37,000	6,495
2007	07	Astra Energy CDTi	1.3D	5	Ultra blue	15,485	7,495
2007	07	Astra Design Auto	1.8	5	Flame red	42,700	7,495
2007	07	Astra Sri Sports hatch X pack	1.6 TBO	3	Flame red	29,810	8,995
2007	57	Astra Sxi Sports hatch CDTi	1.7D	3	Star silver	40,675	8,495
2008	08	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Silver lightening	24,300	8,995
2008	08	Astra Sri X Pack	1.8	5	Black sapphire	14,575	9,295
2008	58	Astra Breeze	1.4	5	Silver lightening	10,700	8,495
2009	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Panacotta	12,625	9,495
2009	09	Astra Club	1.4	5	Silver lightening	18,218	7,995
2009	09	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	5	Star silver	9,710	13,995
2009	09	Astra Active	1.4	5	Black sapphire	9,650	9,495
2009	09	Astra Breeze Plus CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	14,100	9,995
2009	59	Astra Sxi eco flex	1.7D	5	Sovereign silver	3,400	12,495
2009	59	Astra Sports Twin top	1.8	2	Air blue	3,320	15,995
2009	59	Astra Sxi CDTi	1.9D	5	Power red	8,000	12,995
2009	59	Astra Active	1.4	5	Power red	4,960	9,995
2009	59	New Astra Exclusiv CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	6,450	13,995
2009	59	Astra Active	1.4	5	Power red	3,990	9,995
2009	59	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Green spirit	6,250	9,995
2009	59	New Astra Sri	1.6	5	Power red	5,340	14,495

CORSA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	56	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Flame red	38,450	6,995
2007	07	Corsa Club	1.2	5	Flame red	27,810	6,495
2007	57	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Flame red	49,370	6,995
2008	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3	3	Black sapphire	11,440	7,995
2008	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3	3	Star silver	24,590	8,250
2009	09	Corsa Active	1.0	5	Star silver	6,270	8,475
2009	09	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.2	5	Metro blue	19,970	7,995
2009	59	Corsa Life CDTi	1.3D	5	Black sapphire	4,600	9,495
2009	59	Corsa Life CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	9,950	8,995
2009	59	Corsa Active CDTi	1.3D	5	Silver lightening	4,300	9,995
2009	59	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	3	Silver lightening	800	10,495
2009	59	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	5	Silver lightening	4,450	9,995
2009	59	Corsa Sxi	1.2	3	Black sapphire	6,350	9,395
2009	59	Corsa Active	1.2	3	Star silver	7,180	9,395

INSIGNIA & SIGNUM

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2009	09	Insignia Tourer Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	9,300	13,995
2009	59	Insignia Elite CDTi Nav	2.0	5	Sovereign silver	6,550	20,995
2009	59	Insignia CDTi ECO Exclusive	2.0	5	Silver lake	7,350	15,995

MERIVA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	06	Meriva Active E/T	1.6	5	Metro blue	33,225	5,995

VECTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	56	Vectra Design	1.8	5	Metro blue	33,180	7,195
2007	57	Vectra Sri CDTi	1.9D	5	Black sapphire	58,650	7,995
2007	07	Vectra Design Auto CDTi	1.9	5	Star silver	15,117	8,995
2008	58	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	15,390	8,495

ZAFIRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2008	58	Zafira Exclusive	1.6	5	Star silver	13,700	8,995
2009	59	Zafira Design CDTi	1.9	5	Panacotta	2,200	16,995
2009	59	Zafira Active	1.6	5	Black sapphire	4,460	12,995
2009	59	Zafira Active Plus	1.8	5	Ultra blue	5,670	13,495

DUE SOON

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2002	02*	Corsa SE	1.0	3	Flamer red	48,000	2,995
2007	57	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.2	3	Star silver	9,290	6,995
2008	08*	Corsa Breeze Plus	1.3	3	Silver lightening	60,000	6,995
2005	05*	Astra Breeze	`1.6	5	Grey	44,500	5,495
2008	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	11,000	9,495
2010	59	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Arden blue		17,995
2005	05*	Meriva Breeze	1.4	5	Star silver	42,000	4,995
2001	51*	Vectra Sxi	1.8	4	Black	71,000	2,495
2006	56	Zafira Active	1.6	5	Metro blue	48,000	6,995
2008	08	Zafira Breeze +	1.9	5	Star silver	23,000	9,995

COMMERCIALS

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2008	58	Combo Crew van	1.7	6	White	3,650	7,995 No VAT
2009	59	Vivaro SWB CDTi	2.0D	5	White	Del	11,295 +VAT
2009	59	Vivaro SWB CDTi	2.0D	5	White	17,900	10,695 +VAT
2009	59	Vivaro SWB CDTi	2.0D	5	White	15,925	10,995 +VAT

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DrivingReview

by STEVELOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Rugged Freelander 2 stars on and off-road

Land Rover Freelander 2

LAND Rover's Freelander 2 suffered tough love from me after its launch in 2006, but I softened in the end.

Not that the UK 4x4 icon's robust looking junior model really needs an easy ride, but my offish manner was more down to the failings of the Mark 1 Freelander.

That car's adherence – literally – to Land Rover's off-roading heritage was impressive, but I could not love a car styled to shout 'ruggedness and dependability' when it wimped out so often through flaky build and poor reliability.

I can remember the sainted Jeremy Clarkson reviewing the car at launch and questioning whether it would be reliable; the then LR marketing chief said he was so confident that it would stay the course that JC could come round and burn his house down if it failed – the bloke must be living in a cardboard box under the arches now, because Top Gear's enfant terrible closed the report by waving a box of matches at the camera.

However, while still not as bulletproof as LR's branding suggests, the bigger Freelander 2 has shown it really can 'walk the talk' as a quality runabout, building site/rural workhorse and ideal 4x4 for outward bound and alpine holidays.

It is dearer than most compact 4x4s, but you get genuine off-road power – rivals are usually little more than 'soft-roaders', more politely labelled SUVs (sports utility vehicles).

Unlike bigger Land Rovers, the Freelander does not have low ratios, but the low-down power of the mainstay 158bhp 2.2-litre turbodiesel – replaced by a revised 148bhp or 188bhp unit from September – and several driving aids plus the Hill Descent Control feature introduced on the original Freelander, is enough to boost and control the car up and down steep slopes by cleverly assigning traction individually to the four wheels as required.

I have proved the point before at the Land Rover Experience Centre at Eastwell Park, near Ashford, crashing up and down steep slopes slippery with damp chalk and littered with flinty boulders – see our Motors TV film at www.carsforkent.co.uk.

The car also romped through the 'elephant's footprints', craters and hillocks that show how Land Rovers can balance diagonally on just two wheels without being halted or twisted by the terrain. Unlike its predecessor, there was no creaking from dodgy interior fittings.

Of course, most 4x4 buyers never pose such a stern test, even if that is like buying a pair of wellies and wearing them as slippers, but it proves the Freelander's prowess in any conditions, including snow and ice.

And it is not as if the car's superb off-road ability compromises its on-road qualities: it handles tidily and comfortably with little body roll on the bends. Steering feedback is good too – you need it off-road. Though larger than the old car, it also feels nimbler.

The diesel's off-road clout works equally well on-road and there has been a greener option too for the past year, in the form of our 'e' version test car with standard-fit Stop/Start system that cuts the engine automatically when the car is stationary at the lights or in similar situations. It reduces the emissions by eight per cent and average economy is well over 40mpg – the new version should be even greener.

The Freelander interior is comfortable and finished to a high standard, though rugged rather than stylish, with most controls falling to hand well and there is plenty of stowage.

Comfort levels are good front and back with a good high-up view from the cabin and decent space for luggage behind.

And while our test car might look pricey at more than £30,000, diesel prices start at under £22,000 – very tempting for all that off-road ability plus Land Rover cachet.

These Motorline offers on brand new Renaults are

too 60OD to be true!

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New Renault Clio Dynamique 1.2 TomTom 75 16V

- Front electric windows • ABS with EBD
- Cruise Control • Front fog lights
- Carminat Integrated Satellite Navigation
- Air Conditioning • Alloy Wheels
- Radio/CD with MP3 Player

36 monthly payments of	£199
Customer deposit	£199
On the road price	£11,007
Dealer deposit contribution**	£2,493
Total amount to be financed	£10,808
Acceptance fee	£99
Optional final payment	£4,944.77
Plus credit facility fee	£139
and option to purchase fee	£10
Total amount payable by customer	£12,406.57

£199 per month & only £199 deposit!

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- Hands-free Renault Keycard
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36 monthly payments of	£229
Customer deposit	£1,999
On the road price	£14,757
Total amount to be financed	£12,758
Acceptance fee	£99
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Plus credit facility fee	£139
and option to purchase fee	£10
Total amount payable by customer	£16,433.45

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RENAULT

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the I-Music range are: Urban 28.5-37.2 (9.9-7.6), Extra Urban 47.9-57.6 (5.9-4.9), Combined 38.2-47.9 (7.4-5.9). The official CO_2 emission figures for the range are 174-139g/km.

Prices include delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Finance is subject to status, a guarantor may be required, written quotations on request. Finance provided by Renault UK and RCi Financial Services Limited. P.O. Box 493 Watford WD17 1FJ. These offers are available to retail customers only. These offers are not available in conjunction with any other offers and are correct at time of going to press. Offers must end 31st September 2010. Cars shown have optional metallic paint (option price £405). Examples above exclude cost of optional metallic paint.

DrivingPortfolio

LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2 TD4E £33,425

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★
Running costs	★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★
Road tax	£200/year (£300 in year one)
Best rival	VW Tiguan Escape

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the price unless you want real 4x4 ability and/or the Land Rover image

NOT SURE: it is yet as bulletproof as the LR branding and image would like to suggest

REALLY LIKE: how unique it is for its size in offering proper off-road ability while delivering everyday ability

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ALFA ROMEO

147, JTD Tourismo, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows remote central locking, black, 71000 miles, £3600, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, JTD Tourismo, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking diesel dremote central locking, black, 71000 miles, £3600, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

147, JTD Tourismo, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows remote central locking, black, 71000 miles, £3600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, JTDM, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels cruise control immobiliser power steering trip computer isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 32782 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, JTDM, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering trip computer isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 32782 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM 16v, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags traction control remote central locking, over 5000 vehicles in group s, 27951 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, MPI Turismo, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows black, 36301 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, JTDM, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player traction control remote central locking isofix child seat points, black, 36301 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM 16v, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags traction control remote central locking, over 5000 vehicles in group s, 27951 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, MPI Turismo, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows black, 36301 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, MPI Turismo, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player traction control remote central locking isofix child seat points, black, 36301 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM 16v, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags traction control remote central locking, over 5000 vehicles in group s, 27951 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, Jtdm 20v Lusso, kx57fzt, full leather, climate control, remote central locking, power steering, abs, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd player, electric windows, rear headrests, alarm, parking sensor, 18'' alloys, midnight blue met. 11000 miles, £11699, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

AUDI

A3, 2.0 TDi 170 QUATTRO, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking, meteor grey, 23009 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A3, 3.2 V6 Quattro Sport DSG, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers, crystal blue, 67182 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, TDi S line DSG, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue metallic, 39000 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A3, SPORT TDI, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd playertraction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey, 65000 miles, £8700, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A3, SE, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, ebony metallic, 58000 miles, £5400, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 TDi 170 QUATTRO, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking, meteor grey, 23009 miles, £15000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, TDi S line DSG, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player cruise control diesel multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue metallic, 39000 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, 3.2 V6 Quattro Sport DSG, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers, crystal blue, 67182 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 TDi 170 QUATTRO, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking, meteor grey, 23009 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, SPORT TDI, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering remote audio controls, grey, 65000 miles, £8700, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, SE, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, ebony metallic, 58000 miles, £5400, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, black, 45000 miles, £10800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, black, 45000 miles, £10800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 118i SE Step Auto, 2006, black, 4536 miles, £12500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 116i SPORT, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 24123 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 120D SPORT, 2005, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering traction control remote central locking, metallic sonora, 92000 miles, £8500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 118i SE Step Auto, 2006, black, 4536 miles, £12500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 2.0 120D M SPORT, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player diesel electric windows full reverse parking aid traction control remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 3695 miles, £24000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 116i SPORT, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 24123 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

LACETTI, SE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking electric windows metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, denim blue, 17331 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LACETTI, 1.4 SE, 2007, abs brakes electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking, blue, 13232 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SW, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 9500 miles, £4500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking electric windows metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, denim blue, 17331 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SW, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 9500 miles, £4500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking electric windows metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, denim blue, 17331 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LACETTI, 1.6 SX only 28751 miles, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, mettalic blue, 28751 miles, £3999, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MATIZ, S, 2007, abs brakes central locking power steering, ocean blue, 15733 miles, £3680, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MATIZ, S, 2007, abs brakes central locking power steering, ocean blue, 15733 miles, £3680, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points, blue, 36322 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MATIZ, S, 2007, abs brakes central locking power steering, ocean blue, 15733 miles, £3680, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

Matiz, 0.8, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser twin airbags, teal blue, 25325 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points, blue, 36322 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 0.8, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering twin airbags, teal blue, 25325 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 0.8, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering twin airbags, teal blue, 25325 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points, blue, 36322 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte 16v, 7978079, power steering, central locking, abs, radio cassette, twin air bags, adjustable steering column, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, electric front windows, this is just one of three berlingo's that we are currently offering for sale. please click on the link to our web site to view our current stock. all our vehicles are inspected in our workshop and are prepared to the highest standard. blue, 14000 miles, £4995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, aaaaaa, cd player, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, brand new. delivery mileage. grp lined. hubbard fridge standby available if required (optional extra), white, 15 miles, £9995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, fn04zvv, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, air bag, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio cassette, refrigerated display, heated display, hand wash facilities. white, 0 miles, £8995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600 LX HDi Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, kr07xoy, side load door, cd player, electric windows, electric mirrors, immobiliser, remote central locking, grp lined. gah equipment. electric standby available if required. white, 27000 miles, £7595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, ld59ees, satellite navigation, power steering, remote central locking, immobiliser, electric mirrors, electric windows, abs, air bag, bluetooth, cd player, brand new. immediate delivery. grp lined. gah equipment. electric standby available if required. white, 1 miles, £11595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 625 LX HDi Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, mv58zhn, dual passenger seat, side load door, cd player, abs, air bag, electric windows, electric mirrors, power steering, remote central locking, immobiliser, grp lined. hubbard fridge. electric stanby white, 12000 miles, £9995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte 16v, 7849079, power steering, central locking, abs, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, electric front windows, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, twin air bags, radio cassette, blue, 11800 miles, £6495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte 16v, 7901079, power steering, abs, electric front windows, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, radio cassette, adjustable steering column, cloth upholstery, twin air bags, blue, 25900 miles, £5995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, SPORT, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking power steering, breakbeat grey, 10700 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP, 2010, cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking, black, 10 miles, £9500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 Lounge, 2010, alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player central locking electric windows metallic paint mp3 player multiple airbags power steering sun roof tinted glass curtain airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, crossover black, 10 miles, £10500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 SPORT, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering tonneau cover front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, cha cha cha azure, 1500 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, black, 5000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2008, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, yellow metallic, 17600 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP, 2010, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, black, 3000 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP, 2008, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover remote central locking, bossanova white, 22365 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2009, abs brakes bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows immobiliser isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 5700 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP, 2010, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking, black, 7000 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP, 2010, electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player tonneau cover front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, black, 5000 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, Lounge, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, white, 6000 miles, £10500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, ambient white, 10 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, white, 5307 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering tonneau cover front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 18000 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, red, 8 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, abs brakes bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 38000 miles, £4750, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, abs brakes bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 50 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, abs brakes bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 50 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, abs brakes bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 50 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, abs brakes bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 50 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer front remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 1000 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, metallic new wave blue, 8900 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey metallic, 2356 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player climate control cruise control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid tonneau cover trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, new orleans blue, 11000 miles, £8500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, Style 1.4Tdci, 2008, panther black with charcoal trim, 45000 miles, £5490, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

FIESTA, STYLE, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tinted glass remote central locking isofix child seat points quickclear windscreen remote audio controls 3x3 point rear seat belts, silver, 15354 miles, £7900, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 2.0ST, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser, red, 25898 miles, £7500, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Style (Climate), 2008, air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, black, 11186 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Zetec Climate, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking, blue, 24947 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIESTA, freedom, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, non standard, 35000 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, fc02ayl, insurance group 5 central locking power steering drivers airbag passenger airbag immobiliser 1 owner history, metropolis blue, 19000 miles, £3783, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, lx07kfp, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering remote central locking trip computer 1 owner history, tango red, 22000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, lx07kfu, insurance group 5 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser leather seats passenger airbag power steering remote central locking trip computer 1 owner history, tango red, 20000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, eu02fyv, insurance group 6 alloy wheels body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser power steering radio/cassette sunroof trip computer 3 owners service history, aquafrost green, 35000 miles, £2783, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, yg57sju, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering remote central locking trip computer 1 owner history, ocean blue, 13000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, ra57hgm, insurance group 4 abs air conditioning alloy wheels body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking trip computer 1 owner history, tango red, 28000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, ea54exn, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer1 service history. panther black, 56000 miles, £4283, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, ey51ynv, insurance group 6 air conditioning body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag front electric windows front fog lights height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser power steering radio/cd 1 owner. panther black, 51000 miles, £2483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 Zetec TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows remote central locking isofix child seat points quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, moondust silver, 13903 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 5 Dr Flex Fuel 145ps (-), 2010, black, 4989 miles, £22000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 Titanium X Sport TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid sports seats front parking sensors remote central locking isofix child seat points quickclear windscreen remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, panther black, 6362 miles, £19000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 Edge TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, thunder grey, 13708 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 Titanium X TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights half leather trim heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer front parking sensors remote central locking multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, panther black, 8671 miles, £17500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, TDCi Zetec (5), 2009, non standard colour, 5270 miles, £19000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, TDCi Titanium (140), 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, black, 8409 miles, £23000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, ZETEC, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels central locking electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points, red, 39703 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, Titanium, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multi cd player power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation split folding rear seats traction control trip computer curtain airbags remote central locking auto headlights and wipers multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, grey, 5798 miles, £19000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 2.0 Titanium TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer front parking sensors remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls dab radio, avalon grey, 5212 miles, £19500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 1.8 Titanium TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags quickclear windscreen remote audio controls dab radio, avalon grey, 6156 miles, £17500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 2.0 Titanium TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls dab radio, panther black, 8644 miles, £20000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 2.0 Titanium TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags tow bar trip computer xenon headlamps panoramic sunroof front parking sensors remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls dab radio, hypnotic silver, 12028 miles, £20000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 2.0 Titanium TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid tinted glass trip computer front parking sensors remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls dab radio, hypnotic silver, 340 miles, £19500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, Titanium X Sport (201 5 Dr2.0 203 PS Eco, 2010, black, 5989 miles, £22500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, TDCi, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking climate control diesel electric windows immobiliser, silver, 50 miles, £22000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, TDCi, 2008, red, 50 miles, £22000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, TDCi, 2008, red, 50 miles, £22000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 1.8 Zetec TDCi, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, black, 58000 miles, £4800, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, TDCi Titanium, 2009, silver, 6745 miles, £19000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC, SE 5dr Auto, 8050079, air conditioning, twin air bags, abs, power steering, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, electric windows, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, alloy wheels, this is just one of two civic's that we are currently offering for sale. please click on the link to our web site to view our current stock. all our vehicles are inspected in our workshop and are prepared to the highest standard. silver, 56000 miles, £4995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CIVIC, Sport Tropica 3dr, 8017079, power steering, electric sunroof, electric front windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, adjustable steering column, twin air bags, cd player, radio, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, alloy wheels, this is just one of two civic's that we are currently offering for sale. please click on the link to our web site to view our current stock. all our vehicles are inspected in our workshop and are prepared to the highest standard. silver, 75400 miles, £2695, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CIVIC, Type-R GT I-VTEC 3dr, cu57rwl, climate control, abs, multiple airbags, electric windows, electric mirrors, cd player, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, remote central locking, aluminium silver, 24000 miles, £11699, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CIVIC, SE 5dr, fj53sgo, air conditioning, abs, twin air bags, power steering, cd player, remote central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cloth upholstery, folding rear seats, rear headrests, 15'' alloys, aluminium silver, 44000 miles, £4499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

LEXUS

GS, 300 SE Auto, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation sunroof, blue, 42260 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GS, 300 SE Auto, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation sunroof, blue, 42260 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GS, 300 SE Auto, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation sunroof, blue, 42260 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IS, 2.0 SE 200, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering traction control curtain airbags remote central locking, blue, 51212 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IS, SE, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass traction control remote central locking auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, black, 58000 miles, £4800, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IS, SE, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass traction control remote central locking auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, black, 58000 miles, £4800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

B150, Sport, 2009, polar silver, 8931 miles, £14998, Ashford, 0844 558 7048 (TRADE)

B150, SE, 2007, polar silver metallic, 18845 miles, £10498, Ashford, 0844 558 7048 (TRADE)

B160, Sport, 2010, cosmos black metallic, 8000 miles, £14998, Tonbridge, 0844 558 7055 (TRADE)

B160, SE, 2010, cosmos black metallic, 4000 miles, £20190, Maidstone, 0844 558 7050 (TRADE)

B170, sport automatic, 2006, horizon blue, 27845 miles, £10998, Ashford, 0844 558 7048 (TRADE)

B180 CDI, SE, 2009, polar silver metallic, 14774 miles, £17998, Ashford, 0844 558 7048 (TRADE)

B180 CDI, SE, 2010, cosmos black metallic, 4500 miles, £22998, Ashford, 0844 558 7048 (TRADE)

B180 CDI, MAV SE, 2009, cosmos black metallic, 13535 miles, £17998, Canterbury, 0844 558 7049 (TRADE)

B180 CDI, SE (2 Years Free Service), 2010, cosmos black metallic, 1000 miles, £23998, Canterbury, 0844 558 7049 (TRADE)

B180 CDI, MAV, 2009, polar silver metallic, 15568 miles, £16498, Ashford, 0844 558 7048 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

207, 1.4 Sport, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint, metallic blue, 17200 miles, £6500, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

207, 110 GT DIESEL 3DR, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint, blue met, 28000 miles, £7000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

207, Style 1.4 Hdi A/C, 2007, silver with charcoal luxury trim, 45000 miles, £5990, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

207, Sport, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey metallic, 11000 miles, £6800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 16V GT THP, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows immobiliser leather interior power fold mirrors power steering, silver, 11688 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 URBAN, 2007, abs brakes electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking, silver, 9235 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 16v SPORT, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, blue, 28480 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, Verve, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking isofix child seat points, colorado red, 14445 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, SE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 17094 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, Sport, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking isofix child seat points, iron grey, 27305 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 Sport, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint, metallic blue, 17200 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, S, 2007, abs brakes central locking power steering, blue, 9590 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, S, 2007, abs brakes diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points, red, 20375 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, M Play, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking isofix child seat points, blue, 19000 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, S, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows power steering, grey, 15100 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 110 GT DIESEL 3DR, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint, blue met, 28000 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 16V Sport, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, silver, 16069 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, HDI SE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, red metallic, 19000 miles, £6950, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue metallic, 31000 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, Sport, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey metallic, 11000 miles, £6800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 SPORT, 2009, tbc, 1744 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 1.6 16v SPORT, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, red, 34609 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 URBAN, 2007, abs brakes electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking, silver, 9235 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

207, 16V GT THP, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows immobiliser leather interior power fold mirrors power steering, silver, 11688 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

WE'VE big news of our own this week with the official unveiling of the Business Week Live show on November 10. But much attention will also be focused on this week's Big Interview with the MD of Ashford's Future, Judith Armitt, who fears losing at least 20 per cent from her spending on revitalisation and expansion of the town. Can it still become the new growth hub of the county and most important link in Kent's prestigious high-speed rail network? See what she has to say.

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Investment on agenda again after tough year

COMPANIES in Kent and the South East are talking about investment again – but the tone is cautious, ***writes Business Editor Steve Loader.***

More than half (52 per cent) say they are going to plough at least six per cent of turnover back into their business over the coming year, according to new research by Clydesdale Bank.

The primary spending would be on recruiting staff, new equipment and premises. Some firms are even more upbeat: 28 per cent plan to put back more than 10 per cent into their business, though the South East is shown to be less confident than London and the North West.

There are also clear signs of prudence. The survey found half of businesses had delayed either salary increases (51 per cent) or recruitment (50) in the past year because of the economic climate.

The areas most companies in the region believe will drive commercial growth include expansion of operations (42 per cent), followed by more staff (31) and new equipment and machinery (27).

The most confident business sectors are human resources, financial and retail, catering and leisure.

But Clydesdale regional director Will Lindsay said evidence of long-term confidence was still sketchy. "It is clear businesses are telling us their investment and capital expenditure plans remain uncertain over the next 12 months," he said.

WILL LINDSAY

"The decision of when and how much cash to invest back into a business is very important. These results indicate the majority of businesses are planning a relatively conservative spend in the next 12 months. However, with growing confidence in 52 per cent of businesses, the time may well be right for them to invest for growth and pursue quality growth opportunities – from bringing new products to market to pursuing potentially lucrative contracts."

Perceived financial risk in the current climate was cited by 40 per cent of South East companies as the main reason for delaying investment in the past year, while 38 per cent deemed lack of cashflow and preserving capital as necessary reasons.

Clydesdale's own industry came in for some criticism, with 14 per cent of businesses saying a more flexible approach by their bank would allow them to take advantage of growth opportunities in the next 12 months.

Clydesdale says it has responded though by launching a new business support initiative – Investing for Growth – to help businesses grow by easing their cashflow pressures.

The package includes loan repayment holidays, interest-only repayments as well as extended loan and credit facilities.

Mr Lindsay said: "We believe there is a growing demand to give businesses the flexibility and confidence to grow, while still easing cashflow pressures and debt commitments."

Inspirational knight to remember

TWO entrepreneurs have spoken of an inspirational encounter with Faversham-based rock star and Live Aid mastermind Sir Bob Geldof.

The former Boomtown Rats frontman turned businessman and anti-poverty campaigner was a key speaker at a London business event attended by 800 people, including Chris Meaden and Linzi Cooper, directors of IT firm Essential Business Technologies of Tunbridge Wells and London.

Chris said: "The build-up to Sir Bob's speech was focused on his life-transforming actions for the starving in Africa, showing archive TV footage including the Live Aid event, which I remember as clearly now as I did 25 years ago.

"His presence on stage was something I've never seen before. His speech was intense, passionate and hugely inspiring on so many levels. It was the most extraordinary speech I've ever heard.

STAGE PRESENCE: Sir Bob Geldof flanked by Chris Meaden and Linzi Cooper

"He spoke from the heart about his difficult childhood and of his music ambitions and his immense anger and frustration of the famine in Ethiopia which drove him to take action and do something about it. He is remarkable."

Linzi echoed that view and spoke in praise of the value of such events to business confidence. Other inspirational speakers included football's first lady, Karren Brady, and the infamous yet entertaining Gerald Ratner, who now runs a successful online jewellery company, but famously brought down his eponymous High Street chain after calling its products "crap".

Linzi said: "What we are going through in this economy is unprecedented. By investing in attending this event, we took away the strength, the belief and the determination to succeed as entrepreneurs regardless of what economic conditions we are in. As Karren Brady said, 'We need to champion our own careers'."

For Business Week's own big event go to www.businessweeklive.co.uk.

We're part of a leading local economy

NEW research shows Kent is part of one of the UK's leading 'local economies' – demonstrating high employment rates and productivity – but it can't afford to rest on its laurels

The report, Ambition 2020: World Class Skills and Jobs for the UK, highlights the role of local businesses in maintaining competitiveness and the South East lies second out of 12 in a national productivity league table. It also has a higher than average employment rate – 76.7 per cent against the UK average of 72.7 – and is number one in the Regional UK Competitiveness Index.

However, Ambition 2020 also warns that the UK risks a slide in international productivity rankings unless its skills and employment systems are fundamentally improved.

Trish Fraser, speaking on behalf of Investors in People and following up on the report, said: "In the current economic climate, it's more important than ever that businesses are able to get the best out of their people.

"This means challenging and inspiring managers and employees to achieve their potential.

"Employers have to be ambitious and act now to develop the skills they'll need in future. This will improve productivity and performance, benefiting them, their employees, and the country."

Comment

RATHER like the Total Football label applied to the way the Dutch used to play, I think we've come up with a Total Business approach.

Since KOS Media fielded the new-look Business Week section in April, our business coverage has pushed forward in print and online with increasing pace. And this week we unveiled our new striker – Business Week Live (see opposite) – to give us an unrivalled breadth of business coverage across Kent.

The announcement couldn't be better timed, as county firms face up to fresh concerns, challenges and doubts.

It will be a genuine opportunity for businesses to do business with another, team up together and pool ideas as well as get help, from quick fixes to long-term strategies. There is also a lot of confidence to be drawn from sharing thoughts, stories and experiences with others in the same boat.

And we will be fielding real experts on the advice front, ranging from people working at the coal face to those in academia – see Kent Business School marketing manager Sam Blanchard's 'My Business Week' diary later in this section.

You could just turn up and have someone pinpoint the very thing to restart your business and your enthusiasm – sometimes the day-to-day cares of management make it hard to see what needs to be done strategically.

This approach chimes with a major objective in all our business coverage: to gather and pass on useful tips and advice rather than simply cover the news.

And we need those tips, don't we? Certainly after hearing this week that the Bank of England had fluffed its economic forecasting and things are gloomier than we thought.

And we also heard via the Daily Telegraph that Bank governor Mervyn King – surely now 'Merv the Swerve' in tabloid parlance after the forecasting backtrack – reports his shock at learning that his international counterparts are all saying that their countries intend to revitalise their economies by exporting.

If selling is the panacea, who will be buying to balance the international budget? It certainly won't be China which, with its own economic slowdown imminent, will soon be plugging its own 'export or die' message. Oh dear.

STEVE LOADER, BUSINESS EDITOR

Healthy start-up trend

BANKING giant NatWest has contradicted criticism of the banking sector's attitudes to nurturing small business by announcing a healthy trend in backing start-ups.

It reports a 12 per cent growth in delivering helping hands to new firms in Kent and the South East over the past year, which have also gained from initiatives such as two years' free banking. The group has opened 21,400 new business start-up accounts across the region and claims to be approving 85 per cent of all business loan applications. This support has now been enhanced by a free hotline service.

The growth sectors for start-ups nationally are leisure (+37 per cent), IT (+33) and education (+32), though the South East shows strong regional growth in professional services and construction (+25 per cent and +13 respectively). Business Week reported recently on one happy start-up customer, Shaun Kendrick, founder/owner of The Devine Wine Company in Headcorn. Formerly a manager with Threshers, NatWest helped him fulfil a dream to set up and run his own outlet. The banking group's regional director Pete Newman said: "These figures tell us confidence is there and entrepreneurs are seizing opportunities despite tough conditions. It's important we build on this momentum and give more businesses the best possible start."

CHEERS: NatWest's Caroline Beeson helped open the door to Shaun Kendrick's dream

A haven of calm with the Eden Alternative

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

AVANTE Care and Support – one of the South East's largest social care providers – has taken possession of an £8 million state-of-the-art residential care home in Medway.

Amherst Court, Chatham, was built by Denne Construction for the Avante Partnership and will be home to 112 residents with dementia.

Named in recognition of nearby historic Fort Amherst, Amherst Court was designed with the Eden Alternative in mind: a new philosophy that aims to tackle loneliness, helplessness and boredom in older people.

It emphasises spontaneity, companionship and variety and is being rolled out across Avante Care and Support's 19 homes in Kent and south-east London. Avante chief executive Cedric Frederick said: "We are extremely proud of this new building and what it will represent for our customers.

"Amherst Court will offer the highest quality of care for older people living with dementia in surroundings where residents can enjoy a safe and stimulating lifestyle."

Built in just 18 months, the home's en-suite bedrooms are divided into six suites, each containing a lounge area and dining room to create a more intimate and homely feel.

There are also music and games rooms. Denne contracts manager Paul Newstead said: "The scheme has been a resounding success and it has been a pleasure to work in partnership with Avante throughout the course of the development."

Medway Council owns the site at Palmerston Road, previously occupied by the Churchlands residential care home, and has granted a long lease to Avante Partnership.

Cllr Tom Mason, Medway's portfolio holder for adult services, said: "The council had identified the need for extra dementia care and through partnership with Avante Care and Support we have been able to provide this in a modern setting."

OPEN HOUSE: Cedric Frederick (left) of Avante Partnership and Paul Newstead of Denne Construction at Amherst Court

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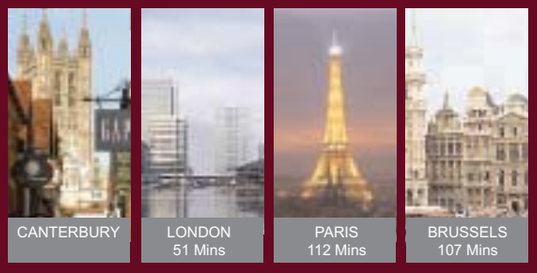

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Conveyor belt of success

NOMINATIONS for the UK finals of the business world's equivalent of the Oscars include the MD of one of Kent's top manufacturers.

Paul Winter, pictured right, of Wire Belt in Sittingbourne is a finalist in the Global Director of the Year category of the 2010 Institute of Directors' Director of the Year awards. He joins 43 directors from across the UK in contesting nine awards. Wire Belt makes wire conveyor belting and conveyors, predominantly for the food processing sector. Mr Winter, who lives in Faversham, has been with the company more than 30 years. The IoD awards recognise excellence and leadership in UK business and Mr Winter has already won at the IoD's 2010 London and the South East Director of the Year awards, where he landed International Director of the Year for businesses with a turnover of up to £4.99m.

The event also caused him to join the IoD. "Several opportunities for networking arose during the evening, resulting in beneficial contacts," he said. "Meeting members made me realise I had overlooked many of the benefits of IoD membership and the decision to join was an easy one to make."

The winners will be announced on October 1 in London.

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

ENGLISH wine celebrated unprecedented success at the recent Decanter World Wine Awards, with Kent flying the flag for our region. The awards attracted more entries from producers across the globe than ever, yet five local wineries scooped 12 awards between them.

Chapel Down in Tenterden stole the show, winning six of those, including a silver medal for its Pinot Reserve 2004, two bronze medals and three commended.

Meopham Valley also featured with a bronze for its Sparkling 2004 and a commended for Sparkling Rosé 2005.

Another sparkling rosé producer, Hush Heath of Cranbrook, was commended for its exclusive Balfour Brut Rosé 2006.

Biddenden's Ortega Gribble Bridge 2009 was awarded bronze, while Ashford neighbour Gusbourne Estate matched this with its Blanc de Blancs 2006 and the region's second silver, for Classic Cuvée Brut 2006.

Guy Tresnan from Chapel Down said: "It shows that all the investment in machinery, grapes and most of all the team, is continuing to produce great results in our world class wines."

DUTCH company Anssems is to build three new industrial units at Dover's White Cliffs Business Park, creating up to 40 jobs. Anssems, which builds lorry trailers, said it looked at several regions but decided on the South East due to proximity to the Continent and then favoured Dover for its port, the Channel Tunnel and motorway connections.

Cllr Frederick Scales, Dover District Council cabinet member for economy and special projects, said: "This is great news for the area, represents an important milestone in phase two of the business park, and reflects much hard work by our planning officers.

"We very much welcome this investment and the confidence it shows in our area, complementing the regeneration initiatives taking place across the district."

DEPRESSED trading on the High Street appears to be passing many specialist shopping centres by, with classic British clothing brand Aquascutum opening a new shop in Kent this month. Natasha Phair, marketing manager at the Ashford Designer Outlet, said: "Aquascutum is synonymous with British style and understated elegance and we feel it complements our designer fashion offering perfectly. We also have other new stores in the pipeline as part of our ongoing improvement of the centre." Ashford Designer Outlet has more than 80 designer and High Street brands.

PROFITS are up at Davies Group, which includes Ashford-based building repair management company Eastwell.

After tax, they rose from £1.7 million in 2009 to £2.8m on a turnover of over £30m for the year up to March 31.

Eastwell MD Martin Bishop said: "This last year has been really good for us. We have doubled the size of our office and increased the staff head count by more than double, all coming from the local area.

"The second half of this year is destined to see us grow even more. Our staff make such a huge difference to our business and the extraordinarily high satisfaction rates we receive stands as proof.

"Times such as this therefore provide a perfect opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their efforts. We have plugged a gap in the local insurance industry offering employment and an alternative to having to commute into London."

Our new annual show goes Live this autumn

BUSINESS Week has announced the launch of a new annual business show to complement its much-expanded media portfolio.

The inaugural Business Week Live event will take place on Wednesday, November 10, at the Detling Showground, near Maidstone.

Running from 9am until 4pm, and with free parking and free visitors' entry, it will be a platform for all organisations to promote their products and services, deliver key messages and achieve region-wide communication of how they can benefit other businesses.

As the show's title implies, it is supported by the recently launched Business Week, a bright new section within the award-winning KOS Media group's series of weekend newspapers: Kent on Sunday and Kent on Saturday and new sister titles Tunbridge Wells on Saturday and Tunbridge Wells on Sunday.

It also dovetails with a business e-bulletin sent every Tuesday and Business Week e-edition sent every Friday to subscribers via Business Week's online presence www.businessforkent.co.uk and social media groups.

Other key supporters are Business Week's key partners: Business Computer Solutions, Belmont International insurance brokers, Kent Business School, ActionCoach business coaching, NatWest and Warners Solicitors.

A Warners' spokesman said: "Warners is always happy to do what we can to make business in our region better. We hope everyone involved will benefit from exhibiting and visiting."

And Business Week Live is also supported by the influential FSB, Kent Invicta, Thames Gateway and Channel chambers of commerce, and BusinessLink South East.

Business Week marketing manager Richard Purvis said: "The economy has had a tough time lately and though Kent business has shown a lot of resilience and ingenuity, it still needs all the help it can get.

"That's why we decided to launch a multi-channel portfolio for the business community in Kent and why we have extended this even further to a live b2b event. Being in the latter half of the year it will complement the established Kent 2020 event and provide a second bite of the apple for many businesses. We decided on Detling as the venue because we know many organisations are familiar with it and it provides the space and facilities they like, together with excellent access for visitors. It will be an excellent showcase, brilliant for networking and nicely timed for looking ahead into a new calendar and business year."

ONLINE PORTAL: Check out the web page at at www.businessweeklive.co.uk

And he also promised some clever tweaks on established business show formulas, including 11 dedicated industry zones:

- Commercial Property, Facilities & Interiors, Utilities, Security;
- Construction, Refurbishment, Eco and Green;
- Education, Training, Careers, Recruitment, HR, Healthcare;
- Franchise, Start-up, Business Services;
- IT, Communications;
- Legal, Finance, Banking;
- Manufacturing & Engineering;
- Media, PR, Design, Marketing;
- Public Sector/Non-profit;
- Transport, Logistics, Distribution, Commercial Vehicles;
- Travel, Tourism, Corporate Hospitality.

Running alongside the exhibition will be targeted seminars covering key issues within many of the sectors represented. And there will also be the chance to gain working advice from industry experts and academics. Stands are priced at just £100 per square metre and the show will be promoted extensively throughout all Business Week products and KOS Media titles and websites, including a dedicated site at www.businessweeklive.co.uk.

• ***For KOS Media business editor Steve Loader's view of the show, see Comment on the opposite page.***

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'My Business Week …'

by Sam Blanchard, marketing manager, Kent Business School, Canterbury

MONDAY – In 'planning mode' for 21st birthday celebrations at Kent Business School – they seem very close now. First event is on December 1 and staged jointly with the Bank of England – the Bank's Chief Economist Spencer Dale is coming to speak and have a Q&A with the guests.

It's a sit down dinner for 150 guests; so much to organise and think about and we follow this up with a series of evening events aimed at helping local businesses with current issues.

TUESDAY – Early start on the Eurostar. Our MBA (Master of Business Administration) is being updated to include a European pathway to be held in Brussels.

Having tried to do business with the EU earlier in my career, I know how complicated and difficult it is, so this pathway should be a great start for local and international business people. Thanks to Eurostar, I have time in Brussels for meetings on the Kent University campus there and can be back in time to cook the children's tea – isn't living in Kent wonderful?

WEDNESDAY – Business School launches a new programme in January aimed at owner-managers of local businesses, so we are brainstorming the programme principles.

Great idea, we think, because participants will have an opportunity to work with business school experts to grow and improve their businesses. Programme balances the need for immediate solutions and quick wins while also forming and implementing a long-term plan.

Towards the end the academics, practitioners and participants become executive directors and form a board to assess each strategic action plan. This will lead to new ideas and solutions and, experience shows, to bonds that turn into long lasting relationships continuing after the programme has finished – brilliant.

THURSDAY – Meetings with local businesses and MBA applicants to promote the part-time MBA. As I did the MBA on a part-time basis in my last job as well as juggling a young family and, during the first week of the course finding out I was pregnant, I am well placed to talk about doing a Masters in Business and how to manage work, study and family life. I believe the MBA has enriched my life professionally and personally and I'm more than happy to talk about my experiences.

FRIDAY – Drawing up plans for our attendance at KOS Media's Business Week Live event in November and I have a great idea to pitch to business editor Steve Loader and his team: to have specialised clinics where local business people can book a half hour session with a panel comprising our MBA students, alumni and academics, who can give immediate advice, solutions and inspirational ideas.

Eyes on the prize as Judith ushers in bright future

ASHFORD "has the potential to be the powerhouse of Kent" according to the town's design champion, Sir Terry Farrell. But while much has been achieved, there is still lots to do and money is now almost too tight to mention for JUDITH ARMITT, MD of Ashford's Future – the body charged with working wonders for the once sleepy market town. Then again, if anyone can make the figures work during a nationwide crackdown on public spending then it has to be this former council treasurer and trained accountant.
Business editor Steve Loader asked her about the prospects now for one of Kent's premier projects.

JUDITH ARMITT

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK THE BIG INTERVIEW

FOR a woman known for vision and leadership, it's surprising to learn that Judith Armitt left Oxford University with no idea of a career path.

"All I knew was that I wanted to make a difference to the life of communities," she said. Well, she's doing just that now as MD of Ashford's Future – a partnership of 10 public and private sector bodies – where she has recently overseen the awarding of £35 million of contracts.

From her office high up in Charter House – one of the town's tallest buildings – she has been able to watch the big changes her organisation is making and will continue to make when it moves to nearby International House later this month.

And it's clear that Ashford's Future is satisfying that early wish to make a difference: "I have been keen that people can see it. It's exciting that within a few months we can walk down new roads and see a new library. It's very important to me, that tangible delivery. There's more to life than having a particular position in a particular organisation."

JUDITH ARMITT'S CV

- 1975 – various roles with GLC
- 1985 – assistant treasurer with Borough of Lewisham, soon becoming treasurer and later director of finance and support services
- 1997 – first chief executive of new Medway Council
- 2006 – chief executive at Thames Gateway
- 2007 – MD of Ashford's Future

She hasn't done badly there, though. Apart from what appears to have been a frustrating time at the former Greater London Council under both Conservative control and then that of Ken Livingstone's Labour group, she has held key positions in local government. Born in Manchester and raised in the Midlands, she graduated in philosophy, politics and economics and trained in accountancy. She joined the GLC and recalled: "There was never a dull moment – there was always an argument going on and grand plans being drawn up. The downside was working for an organisation that was always being severely criticised. It can be very wearing on morale."

She left in 1985 to join the Borough of Lewisham as assistant treasurer and was promoted to treasurer within a year. At just 33, she was one of the youngest people in the country to hold such a post and almost certainly the first woman to succeed at that age.

Her duties expanded too when she was made director of finance and support services – and also started a family:

"I had six months off after both pregnancies. At that time it was quite pioneering stuff for someone at that level

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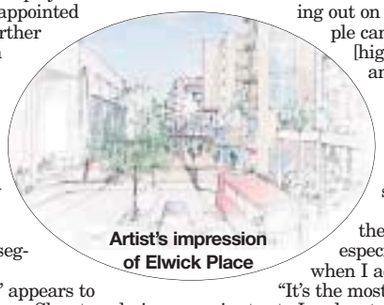
of seniority to have children and then come back to work. You have to be absolutely rigorous about a work/life balance. So I went from a regime where I would often be working in the evenings to one where I left at 5pm whatever happened, except for emergencies."

Judith then had the chance to fashion an organisation from scratch by becoming the first employee of the all-new Medway Council. She was appointed chief executive and had to add a further 7,000 people to the payroll in seven months so the new authority could go 'live' on April 1, 1998. Despite her continuing drive to make a difference, she admitted that her first task was to ensure smooth transition: "I realised that success would be if people didn't notice any difference, even though we were amalgamating the Rochester and Gillingham councils and cutting a segment from Kent County Council."



Artist's impression of Elwick Place

After that, the new 'super council' appears to have delivered all the right challenges. She stayed nine years before being attracted to the development sector, operating between local and central government.

Her first step was as chief executive of the Thames Gateway, ending after less than year when she resigned after a much publicised falling out with the government.

She then took over as MD at Ashford where a development body had been in place since 2003, but was being reorganised along company lines. "It was what attracted me to this role. We get a degree of autonomy from our partners while working closely with them," Judith said.

She has a small team of 12 working with her, though she can call on expertise from primary partners Kent County Council, Ashford Borough Council, the South East England Development Agency and the Government's Home and Communities Agency, which holds the purse strings. But how much harder will it be to loosen those purse strings now as the new coalition looks to stabilise the UK's finances?

"It's a bit of a cliché, but it's very much business as usual," she said. "We have reached a stage of progress and commitment where we can go forward even in uncertain times. It's been suggested we should assume we will get a 20 per cent cut, which means we will get 80 per cent of what is currently a £54m programme and that will still allow substantial progress."

She admitted some smaller projects have already had to be pruned, such as the town's new cycle way scheme, though she has not written this out of the grand plan.

But she betrays some concern for SmartLink, Ashford's bid for a rapid bus service: "It ought to be Ashford's trademark in 10 years. It will be smart, clean, attractive to be on, frequent, and free from delays."

But SmartLink – similar to the rapid bus service already operating in Thameside – has yet to get the green light. Though £30m was allocated by the outgoing government, SmartLink is back in the mix ahead of the coalition Government's spending review in October.

And there's a danger it will be seen by the Treasury as a park and ride scheme, rather than the starter for phases two and three linking and promoting development of two all-new communities in outlying districts of the town. She said: "It will offer those communities a real chance of leaving the car at home and not paying out on parking. Once in the centre, people can go shopping or go on via HS1 [high-speed rail network], Eurostar and beyond."

These later stages would also get cash from the developers of the new communities, but there is perspiration being shed over funding for that crucial primary stage.

But Judith is keen to emphasise the momentum Ashford already has, especially from HS1. She is "stunned" when I admitted I have yet to travel on it.

"It's the most fantastic new rail service – 37 minutes to London, two trains an hour and great connectivity with other services. We had all this talk beforehand about fares being too expensive, but what people have realised is that the extra 20 per cent buys two extra hours in your day, when you would have been sitting on a train instead.

"An estate agent told me that not only are house inquiries up locally, but 50 per cent of inquiries are because of HS1. It's early days but we believe HS1 will enable Ashford to buck the housing market."

She sees HS1 as one of two key strengths for the Ashford plan, the other being how the town has always embraced growth and the benefits of improved facilities.But when I suggest this might be because there is less to be precious about architecturally in Ashford, she counters by pointing first to the medieval lanes of the town centre and the beauty of St Mary's Church, which is being transformed into an arts centre. She also likes the railway buildings at Newtown, testament to the town's great regional railway heritage and earmarked for refurbishment.

Current projects include redevelopment of the brownfield site at Victoria Way, rebuilding the town's station and library sites and improvements to junction nine of the M20 to pave the way to the Eureka Park development realising its one million sq ft of potential – only a third is built or available to build at present.

She keeps fit by running and orienteering, and closes the interview with an energetic call to arms for Ashford:

"All the indicators are good and it's exciting times for us when there's all this gloom and doom in the national press. Ashford has a really good message: house prices and office rents are a lot cheaper than in London, which is just 37 minutes away. Paris is less than two hours away. If you are a business in Kent, then maybe you should open another office here or move here. And we are very attractive for French and Belgian businesses who need a UK base."

JUDITH'S TOP TIPS

- Make your own future – "I left the GLC before it was abolished rather than wait for someone or something else to make my career decision for me."
- If work is a perpetual emergency then you are not working for a well-run organisation – "When I had started my family, colleagues did find it interesting at first when I said 'I'm going to catch my train and you'll have to walk with me to the station if you want to carry on talking to me'."
- A steady ship is a happy ship – organisations steeped in controversy and conflict are bad for the morale for you and the rest of the organisation. She cites her experiences at the GLC.

LOOKING AHEAD: Judith Armitt outlines her vision for Ashford

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FORMER Ramsgate Garden Centre boss Paul Dye, pictured above, has been promoted to regional manager with The Garden Centre Group, taking charge of 11 sites in Kent and East Sussex.

The 47-year-old father-of-three from Herne Bay started his career at a nursery in North Wales when he was a horticulture student. He has since worked at garden centres nationwide.

His new Kent charges in addition to Ramsgate are at Chartham, near Canterbury; Elm Court, Gillingham; Folkestone; Hamstreet, near Ashford; Paddock Wood; Tunbridge Wells; and Willesborough, Ashford; plus Sussex sites at Hastings, Lewes and Lower Dicker under his care.

Junior boffins in campus project

IN THE LAB: The young scientists

SIXTEEN young science students took part in the 13th annual Pfizer Biology Project Week at the University of Kent at Canterbury.

The A-level and International Baccalaureate pupils, chosen for their enthusiasm and commitment to the sciences, applied their skills to projects set by scientists from Pfizer's European R&D HQ in Sandwich and from the university. This year's projects included investigating the effects of dust mites on lung tissue, the potential of different compounds for preventing blood clotting, marking chromosomes to detect defects, investigating the neuro-pharmacology of bladder tissue, measuring biomarkers to detect the effects of different compounds on the body, and developing more receptors on cells.

The aim was to test the students' skills and knowledge and broaden their understanding of applied science and research techniques.

Lectures

The sixth-formers – from schools in Ashford, Broadstairs, Canterbury, Dover, Faversham, Folkestone, Maidstone, Ramsgate and Sandwich – also attended lectures and seminars led by Pfizer and academic scientists and visited the Pfizer site. In turn, the scientists judged the projects and awarded prizes on the basis of engagement, intellectual input and development in project work undertaken.

Craig Burns, of Chatham House Grammar, Ramsgate, and Jade Borda, of Dane Court School, Broadstairs, gained the opportunity for paid summer work placements at the Pfizer labs in Sandwich next summer. Rosie Henderson, of Invicta Grammar, Maidstone, was awarded a £250 prize from the University of Kent; and Ed Leggett, of King's School, Canterbury, was presented with £100 in book tokens.

The best teamwork award went to Michael Turton, of Dane Court Grammar, Broadstairs, and Hollie White, of Simon Langton Girls' Grammar, Canterbury, for their research into identifying and measuring biomarkers.

Sheridan Piper-Brown, who co-organised the Biology Project Week with fellow Pfizer scientist Holly Siggins, said: "It brought together a group of hardworking and bright students. We hope we have inspired them to become our scientists of the future."

More than 200 Kent pupils have taken part the Pfizer project since it was launched.

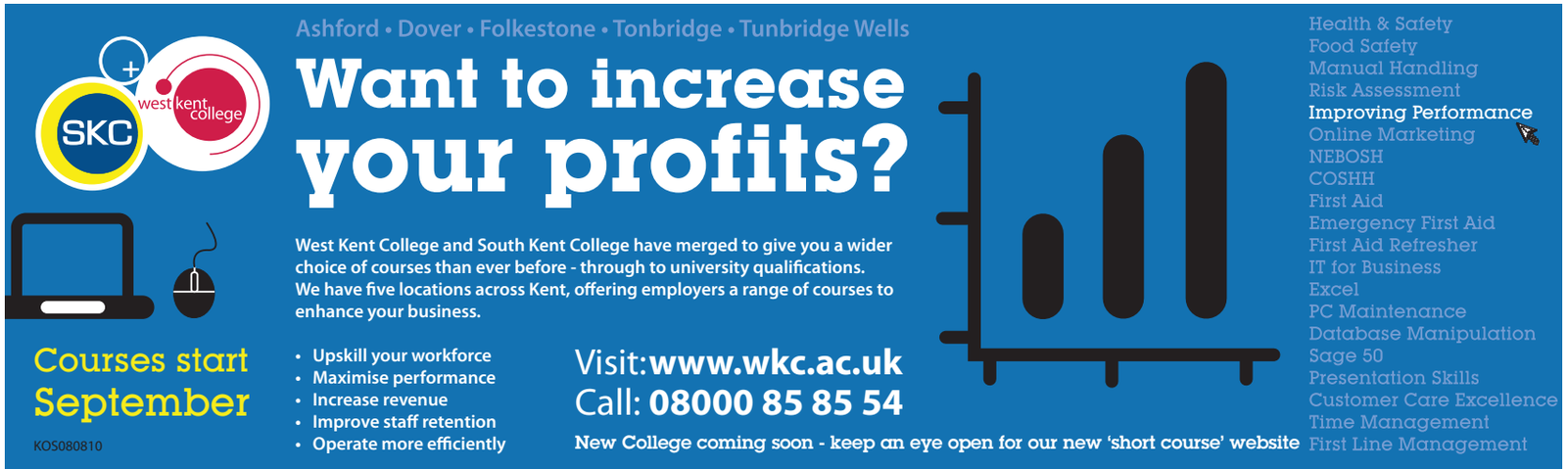
Exciting times for Anthony

INTERNATIONAL pharmaceuticals manufacturer Aesica has appointed Anthony Allcock, pictured above, to run its Kent site at Queenborough on Sheppey.

The new site operations director is from St Helens, trained as an engineer and has worked in the chemical and pharmaceuticals industry for 30 years, notably for Glaxo Smith Kline but joins Aesica after 10 years at sterile goods manufacturer Wockhardt in North Wales.

He said it was an exciting time to be joining the company: "Aesica has ambitious plans for growth in new markets across the UK and the USA."

Aesica supplies products to leading medical and pharmaceutical companies and emerging biotechnology organisations. it was founded in 2004 and has three sites in the UK plus others in New York, San Diego and Shanghai.



Going the Extras mile

TRAVEL specialist HolidayExtras.com has been selected as a top 10 UK company in the National Business Awards' BlackBerry Award for Customer Focus 2010.

The firm, based at Newingreen, near Hythe, joins other finalists from across the country to make presentations before an independent judging panel ahead of an awards ceremony on November 9 at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

HolidayExtras.com has also won through to the final of the awards – sponsored by Orange – against strong opposition, after entries rose 40 per cent against those for the 2009 contest and with fellow finalists including major players such as Unilever, Marks & Spencer, Coca-Cola and Co-operative Group. Anna Divers, head of customer innovation at HolidayExtras.com, said: "Over the last year HolidayExtras.com has focused on customer experience like never before, with 'hassle-free' becoming our mantra and the foundation that guides everything we do. The whole team is excited to be recognised for our customer focus, particularly as we had our commitment to customers tested to the full during the volcanic ash crisis."

ANNA DIVERS

Judges' spokesman Phil Forrest said: "Recognising a gap in the market with the potential to make holiday travel less stressful, the company established a range of services designed to relieve the customer of all the peripheral issues that, either through lack of forethought or natural disaster, can reduce the enjoyment of the trip."

Martin Stiven, Orange UK vice-president, said: "It's been a tough couple of years for business but organisations have not let this stop them from delivering success.

"I'd like to congratulate all the finalists for being a real inspiration for what is possible in business."

SEVERAL Kent food and drink producers are still in the hunt for the Great Taste Awards' 2010 Supreme Champion Trophy, to be awarded on Monday, September 6.

Now in their 16th year, the 2010 GTAs attracted an even higher entry level from across the UK and Ireland – 6,021 in total – and the star ratings are coveted for their product marketing value as well as kudos.

So fingers will be crossed by managers and staff at the Kent stars: fruit juice producer Moor Organics in Teynham; Herbal Health in Cranbrook; Ramsgate Brewery in Broadstairs; and Chegworth Valley Juices in Maidstone.

The Guild of Fine Food's Bob Farrand said: "It's so exciting to see the standards of food and drink in the British Isles go from strength to strength, year after year, proving that for those who enjoy great food it's there to be discovered."

BEACH LIFE: Visit Kent has produced an eye-catching series of Garden of England posters to promote its tourism initiatives, including this one of Botany Bay, Broadstairs

Staycation to station

VISIT Kent has launched a new campaign to help the county's tourist attractions cash in on the 'staycation' trend.

Noting that foreign holidays are off the agenda for many cash-strapped families, the award-winning marketing organisation has again teamed up with rail company Southeastern to make a day out or short break to the county better value by train.

For the second summer running, visitors travelling to or around Kent by train can take advantage of '2FOR1' offers on a huge number of attractions throughout the county.

On presentation of a voucher and a valid train ticket, visitors can enjoy deals at attractions such as Dover Castle, Hever Castle, Chatham Historic Dockyard and Quex Park. Restaurants and hotels are also joining the campaign, which has jam-busting benefits, saves on parking and can tap into the new high-speed rail link with London. Find out more via www.visitkentbytrain.co.uk.

Visit Kent chair Amanda Cottrell said: "We're delighted to be working with Southeastern and our tourism partners again.

"This campaign enables us to promote an entire package: travel, accommodation, food and drink and Kent's attractions, all with huge discounts. It's great for families who want to have fun and great value for money."

NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on the finance and legal sectors

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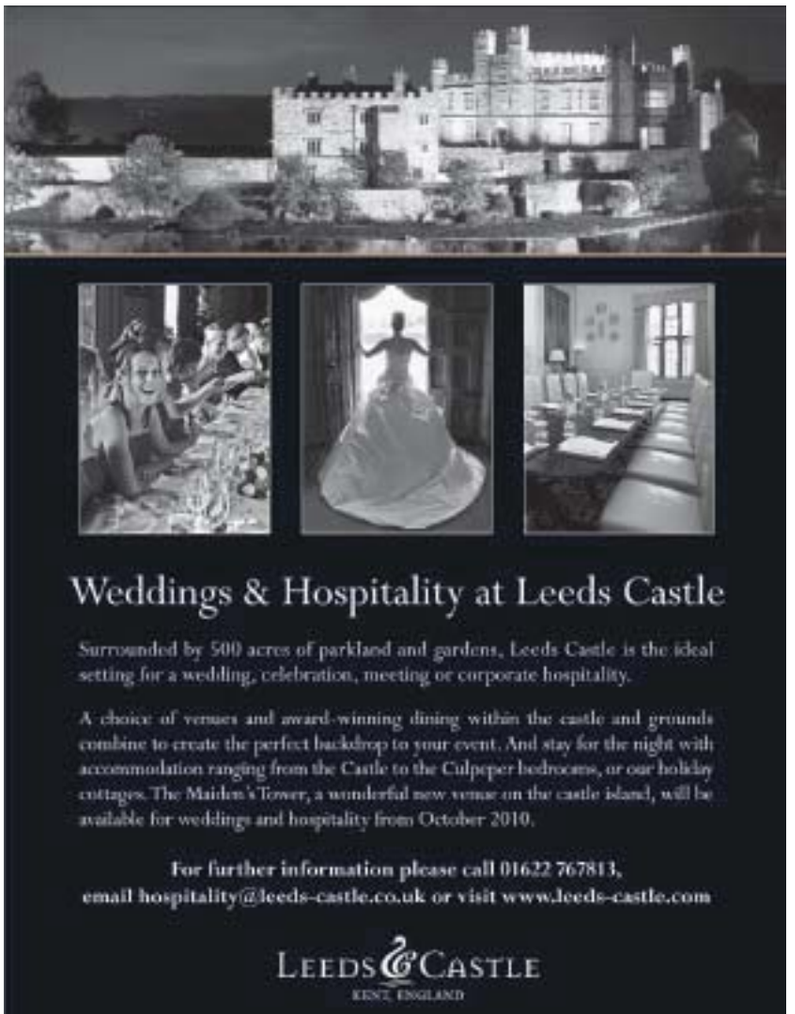

Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 50 years

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** SOUTHERN Television sent a crew to film the Kent derby between Tonbridge and Dartford, which the latter won 1-0. Afterwards Tonbridge's players were taken to Southern Studios, where they were interviewed by the Tottenham Hotspur captain and Northern Ireland international Danny Blanchflower.

Tunbridge Wells named four new players in the starting line-up for their trip to Gloucester City in the Southern League, but there was no place for midfielder Bobby Bean, who was outshone in the previous week's game by Alan Butcher.

1985 **25 YEARS AGO:** GRAHAM Johnson was sacked by Kent after 20 years at the club – and then was staggeringly asked if he would play in the next County Championship game with Yorkshire at Scarborough.

Johnson refused and declined to comment immediately, but director of coaching Chris Page said: "It's always a sad part of my job when we have to release players, but if we feel we are unable to give them space in our 1st XI then it is kinder to release them in the hope they can be accommodated elsewhere."

Kevin Masters was also released, as was spinner Lindsay Wood, once seen as a potential successor to Derek Underwood.

2000 **10 YEARS AGO:** KENT managed to beat a Lancashire side containing a young Andrew Flintoff by seven wickets at Old Trafford in National League Division One, in a rain reduced game.

Lancashire were limited to just 136 for 7 from 21 overs, with Min Patel (right) taking 2 for 13 and part-time bowler Matthew Walker 2 for 27.

Despite losing Walker for seven early on, an unbeaten 60 from the imperious Rahul Dravid steadied the ship.

Martin McCague, fresh from his heroics in the previous game with Leicestershire, again vindicated the decision to push him up the order by smashing 31 not out from 16 balls, to see Kent home with two overs to spare.

Picture: ADY KERRY

AIMING HIGH: England star Ashley Jackson was going for gold in Champions Trophy

Jackson wants to avenge final defeat in Delhi

By DAVID PRITCHARD

DESPITE helping England to their best-ever finish at hockey's Champions Trophy last weekend, Ashley Jackson admitted to feeling slightly unsatisfied with a silver medal.

Just contesting a medal marked uncharted territory for England, who had never finished higher than fifth in the annual event featuring the world's top six sides.

It looked to be another disappointing campaign as the side began with two defeats and a draw in their opening three games in Monchengladbach, Germany.

But 4-3 wins against the Netherlands and New Zealand, combined with results elsewhere going their way, catapulted England into the final.

Although Australia were too strong in the showpiece, winning 4-0, it was the latest encouraging performance by the side, now ranked fourth in the world after winning the European title last summer and finishing fourth in this year's World Cup.

Jackson, who played junior hockey at Tunbridge Wells, featured prominently in all three campaigns, but had mixed feelings about the Trophy result.

He said: "We couldn't produce much in the final which was disappointing, but the fact we're complaining about taking a silver medal from an event with the top six teams in the world, I think, speaks a lot about how far this team has come.

"If we had been offered silver beforehand we would've taken it, but similar to the World Cup when you're that close you want more. We lost gold rather than won silver."

Average

Jackson, the reigning world young player of the year, scored three goals in England's first three games. The 22-year-old rated his performances in Germany as no better than average and felt jaded after a schedule which had seen the squad play 14 games in less than a month.

A fortnight away from hockey working in the gym should help ahead of intense preparations for the Commonwealth Games in October. For Jackson, the tournament in Delhi offers an opportunity to make up for any disappointment suffered at the Champions Trophy.

He said: "We desperately want to be playing Australia in the final. We feel we owe them one now and if that comes by beating them at the Commonwealth Games then we'd happily take that."

Picture: ADY KERRY

FAREWELL: Nick Barker (centre) has left

Oaks new approach vital to league form

CHANGES are afoot at Sevenoaks Hockey Club with new players and a fresh mentality in place to ensure the men's side remain competitive in Conference East ahead of the coming season, ***writes Steve Tervet***

While the club has also parted company with a number of players, a more professional approach is in place for those who have stayed, and Oaks bosses expect more players to join before league hockey returns in five weeks' time.

Player-coach Pete Turner was part of the Sevenoaks side which reached the EHA Cup semi-finals and Kent Cup final last season, and he also helped the club secure promotion to Division One of the National Indoor League.

However, he insists the focus is now on improving last term's lukewarm league form in a division which promises to be even tougher than 12 months ago.

"The league has got to be number one this year," he said. "The line between the top three and the bottom two is incredibly fine and what can make the difference is the three or four players that will join over the summer.

"It's not a big league and it's absolutely vital we stay in this league and compete."

Recruitment

Richard Payne has joined from East Grinstead in the Oaks' biggest move so far, although they will be without free-scoring Ben Allberry, who has moved in the other direction.

Chris and Nick Barker both have international experience already, but they too will play their hockey elsewhere this season.

Both are starting university and Chris will represent University of Exeter while Nick will attempt to break into the 1st XI at Premier Division side Beeston.

"We've been ambitiously casual in our approach and that was good for a while," Turner said. "The league is stronger now and our levels of professionalism will go right up. Recruitment is so important now and while it's possibly not gone as well as we'd hoped, we've made a couple of fantastic acquisitions."

Suns girls suffer loss in Euro tournament

THE European Championships ended in disappointment for Sevenoaks Suns' international contingent, as England's under-18 women slumped to finish eighth in Romania.

TIRED: Renee Busch

Renee Busch and Femi Hamilton both played key roles as England topped their group, but the pair were unable to inspire the side to a single victory in their next four games. The duo were both involved as England lost 74-62 to the Netherlands and 81-76 to Belarus, with the England players clearly fatigued in the latter game.

Maisie Elston and Timeyin Oritsesan, also of the Sevenoaks side, were then introduced for England's penultimate game, but too many tired English legs saw Michael Ball's side beaten 68-53.

England's campaign ended against Finland, who they beat in the group stages, but they slipped to a fourth straight defeat, 62-53, with all four Suns players again given minutes.

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Playing 'best team' reaps dividends as Kent hit form

By GLENN PEARSON

CONFIDENCE is the buzzword around St Lawrence this week as Kent strengthened their hopes of remaining in Division One of the LV= County Championship.

A 99-run win against Essex at the start of Canterbury Cricket Week was followed up by a draw against Somerset last week, although on the evidence of their negative last day tactics against Kent in which Marcus Trescothick decided to bat all day, their bid for a first-ever championship title looks set to go on a bit longer.

Rob Key's side followed that draw with a convincing eight-wicket win against Leicestershire last Sunday, a game in which Sri Lanka leg-spinner Malinga Bandara returned figures of 5 for 35, to take Kent's unbeaten record to three in all competitions.

Most importantly, the county are starting to put some good performances together in the championship, a competition in which staying in the top tier is their sole priority for the remainder of the season.

Crucially, the likes of Martin van Jaarsveld and Geraint Jones – who hit a career-best 178 against Somerset – are starting to come into some real form, while off-spinner James Tredwell, who has looked out of sorts at times this summer, looked back to his best in taking 5 for 95 in the same game.

Head coach Paul Farbrace believes Kent's upturn in fortune is down to being able to field their best team, which includes all-rounder Azhar Mahmood, together with the confidence that winning games brings.

"The good thing is in championship cricket we have put out our best team which helps two games running and we have taken a lot of confidence from the win against Essex," he said.

"The top four are getting some confidence now and are scoring runs. Keysey has a big score around the corner, Joe [Denly] has a big hundred in him and there is a lot of good happening within our team.

Impressive

"The confidence in the team is starting to come good and cricket is a huge game for that. It shows the fight in the team and I think that's an impressive trait to have. Even though it has not been the greatest season and people could have started thinking about the winter, our mentality hasn't been about survival, it's about finishing as high as we can and that's the way it has to be."

The club released James Hockley this week after the Beckenham-born batsman struggled to nail down a place in the side. It was the 31-year-old's second stint at St Lawrence having previously made his first-class debut in 1998, but the club chose to release him before the end of the season, as they did with Rob Ferley and Warren Lee last month, to give several youngsters a chance in the second team.

Farbrace said: "[Hockley] has given it a real go to be successful this time around and unfortunately that hasn't worked.

"At his age he needed to be figuring in first-team cricket so we released him early to concentrate on his teaching."

Pictures: ADY KERRY

ON TOP: Bandara took five wickets last week, while Hockley (right) has been released

Hadlow in search for young talent

GROUND WATCH

This week sports reporter **STEVE TERVET** visited Hadlow Cricket Club and found a side desperately hoping to revive their fortunes in the Kent County Village League

ONE of Kent's most historic sports clubs is crying out for an influx of fresh young talent following the demise of its colts section.

Hadlow, four miles north east of Tonbridge, have lost not only their steady stream of youngsters, but also a number of senior players and are now struggling to stave off relegation in Division Two of the Kent County Village League.

Cricket has been played in Hadlow since 1747, with the club's first recorded game taking place in 1819. Originally built in 1864, the appearance of the Common Road pavil-

ion (pictured) has changed several times in recent years, while the outfield has been extended to the ditches which border the ground.

Hadlow president Jim McIlhatton said: "We're struggling with our colts, we're trying to get more youngsters in because that's how the club survives. We now have 14 and 15-year-olds who are happy to play senior cricket, but we do need more senior players and more colts. It's hard when you're up against town sides like Cowdrey who get a lot of support in Tonbridge."

The ground has played host to several exhibition matches, with Gatwick Airport and Luton Airport contesting an annual game at Hadlow, while Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council have played their Maidstone counterparts on the ground.

Reflecting on this season's Hadlow side, McIlhatton said: "For the moment, we have to go with what we've got. In previous years, Indian players came from London to play here and they bolstered us for the last few years. A lot of them have now left, though, and that's why we've struggled."

Captain's log

John Boyden

Skipper of Penshurst Park

SINCE arriving in Penshurst as the village policeman three decades ago, John Boyden has become an integral part of the village cricket club, which plays on Viscount De L'Isle'e estate.

Boyden took 40 wickets last summer at an average of 15.9 and he is on course to better his record this season.

He has hit more than 1,000 runs over the past four seasons and with Penshurst battling with Bidborough and Plaxtol at the top of the Kent County Village League, he could yet lead his side to the championship this year.

How long have you been captain?
For the last five years, although I've been captain on-and-off for 28 years.

Who's the best player you've played with?
Former Kent and England fast bowler Richard Ellison – he had the full set, batting and bowling. He was a class all-rounder and I played with him at his best.

And against?
Probably Alan Ealham.

If you could add any player from world cricket to your team, who would it be?
I'd probably go for Aussie Shane Watson. He's a character, he's all-energy and he always gives 100 per cent.

Which captain do you most look up to?
I quite liked Michael Vaughan. He never panicked and he was laid-back with his decision-making.

What's the best thing about being captain?
Getting the players to play as a team, rather than individuals. It's fantastic when you play well as a team, when you're clinical in your batting and bowling.

And the worst?
The full-on organisation on a daily basis. People work so it's a fine balance to keep everybody happy. It's easy when you're winning, but difficult when you're not.

What's your favourite ground to play at?
Penshurst, our home ground. It's just beautiful, majestic.

KP switch-hit or Michael Vaughan cover-drive?
Michael Vaughan. I'm a traditionalist.

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Picture: DAVE COOLRIDGE

SUSPENDED: Angels' stopper Lee Worgan

Tonbridge in search for a loan stopper

TONBRIDGE Angels will sign a loan goalkeeper for next Saturday's opening game of the season at Billericay to cover for suspended stopper Lee Worgan.

Angels boss Tommy Warrilow has ruled out making a permanent signing, saying Worgan is his undisputed first choice in goal.

"It [a deal] will be for just one game and then Worgs will be back," Warrilow said.

"All the managers I've spoken to about signing a replacement know this."

Worgan's suspension isn't Warrilow's only headache as he prepares his squad, rated joint-third favourites for promotion from the Ryman Premier Division with Lowestoft and behind Sutton and Kingstonian, for the trip to Essex.

The repercussions of the failed play-off run in at the end of last season are still being felt.

Worgan was sent off for handling outside the area in the final day defeat at Aveley, incurring a one-game ban.

Closed doors

Scott Kinch meanwhile was slapped with a three-match ban by the FA after collecting two yellow cards in a 2-0 defeat to Boreham Wood in the last game at Longmead, prompting Tonbridge to resign striker Jay May as cover.

The former Bromley and Dartford player had a spell on loan with Tonbridge at the end of last season, having previously played for the club in the Tony Dolby era.

"He's a had a good season with Croydon," Warrilow said of May.

"I brought him in for the Dartford game and it gives us a chance to get him into the side because with Scott suspended, I need to do a few things."

Warrilow was trying to organise a final friendly game for Tonbridge this week.

"It could be a behind closed doors game on either Monday or Tuesday, but I've got to confirm it," he said.

Mooney's return is timed to perfection

Striker will fill hole left by Agana's injury

By STEVE TERVET

KEELAN Mooney's decision to re-sign for Tunbridge Wells could not have come at a better time after two of the club's forwards were struck down by injury this week.

Mooney, who is back at Culverden on dual-registration forms from Maidstone United, has an instant opportunity to show manager Martin Larkin he is worthy of a starting berth with Benji Agana temporarily out of action with a hamstring strain.

The 21-year-old added a touch of flair to the Wells frontline in the latter stages of last season, and he trained with the Stones this summer, but his first-team opportunities remain restricted at Homelands.

Larkin always hoped to call on Mooney's services at some point this season, but admitted he was pleasantly surprised to have the striker available so early in the campaign.

"I thought we'd get him back, but not until September or October," he said.

Opportunities

"It's a bonus to get him now, with Benji picking up an injury. [Mooney] played well last year, but he didn't score the goals he should have so it's important he puts the ball in the back of the net this time.

"He's an exceptional finisher and his build-up play is very good. He's spent the whole of pre-season with Maidstone and they wanted him to stay, but they couldn't guarantee him first-team football. He's a very talented player and if we can give him service and opportunities in the box, he can score goals for us. Benji Agana and Mike Lord have done well in training, so it's up to Keelan to force his way in."

One forward unlikely to play for the Wells again this season is Matt Foreman, who suffered knee cartilage damage in last Saturday's goalless draw with Beckenham Town.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

YOUNG TALENT: Keelan Mooney has signed for Wells on dual-registration from Maidstone

Foreman was due to spend six weeks at Culverden before leaving for university, but his involvement totalled just 22 minutes after coming on to replace Agana.

Larkin said: "Matt had a scan on Wednesday, but I don't think he'll play for us again this season. We've got some big games coming up at the end of the month so we'll have to see about Benji because he's an important player for us."

Carl Cornell is another injury concern for Larkin, with the midfielder still struggling to shake off a leg injury he sustained against Crowborough Athletic three weeks ago.

New-look Town will have to grow into life in Kent League

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

ALL CHANGE: With new playing and coaching staff, Sevenoaks face a season of transition

CALLING the transition to life in the bearpit of Kent League football a culture shock might be a bit of an exaggeration, but Sevenoaks Town's new assistant manager Murray Carcary believes the players and coaching staff will adapt quickly to football at this level.

After a summer of transition at Greatness Park which has seen a change of manager, backroom staff and several ins and outs on the playing front, there's no doubt the new regime will take some time to adjust to the unique style of the Kent League.

"It's a challenge, it's a little bit different to Conference South," Carcary said, possibly with a certain amount of understatement, after moving from Welling United in the summer.

"We've got quality, but sometimes it's not about quality, it's about desire and wanting to win the game."

Town play only their second game under new boss Keith Levett on Sunday at Lingfield after the Extra Preliminary Round FA Cup tie was put back 24 hours and moved to East Grinstead, due to a cricket match being played at Lingfield's home ground.

Town's first game under Carcary, Levett and player-coach Rob Quinn ended in a 2-2 draw last Saturday, when a side consisting of nine new players was held by Norton Sports at Greatness Park.

Watched by a crowd of just 81, Town got off to an excellent start when Cashen Henry put them 1-0 up after just four minutes with a clever lob.

However, Norton equalised after 20 minutes through Russell Jeffrey and took the lead five minutes into the second-half through Harry Goodger, only to be reduced to 10 men when the latter was sent off for violent conduct.

A superb strike from Chris Davies in the 71st minute earned Sevenoaks a point, but Carcary admitted the game had been a learning curve both for the players and the coaching staff.

"It was a disappointing result and I don't think the performance was where it should have been, on the ball," he said.

"When you go against 10 men you expect to use the ball, use the width of the pitch, but we didn't quite do that."

With so many new players however, the Town assistant boss felt his team had done well to gel.

"We could quite easily have folded, being a new side and it's nice to see a bit of character," he said.

"The boys rolled their sleeves up to get back into it; we're only going to get better, that's guaranteed," he said.

Birley hopes to dominate on home circuit as best of British hit Brands

BRANDS Hatch will celebrate the best British motorsport has to offer with the Dunlop Great and British Festival taking place this weekend.

The 1.2-mile Indy circuit is set to welcome championships involving a range of vehicles including touring cars and Le Mans style sports cars.

Despite it being a predominantly British theme, drivers and machinery from across Europe are expected to do battle on the track.

Minis, Caterhams and the lightweight Radical sports cars are all set to entertain fans.

Taking centre stage will be the Dunlop Motorsport News Saloon Car Championship, which is led by multiple champion Rod Birley, from West Kingsdown.

The 54-year-old, driving a former Ford Escort World Rally car, is aiming to dominate the three races at his home circuit to extend his 44-point lead in the championship.

Qualifying begins at 9am Saturday morning, with races held throughout the afternoon and all of Sunday.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

HOME GOAL: Rod Birley (right) hopes to extend his championship lead

By FRED ATKINS

Cup run begins over the border

Lingfield v Sevenoaks Town

KICK-OFF 3PM ON SUNDAY AT GODSTONE ROAD

THERE'S a rare foray across the border on Sunday when Sevenoaks Town make the short trip to East Grinstead to play Lingfield in the Extra Preliminary Round of the FA Cup.

The game, originally scheduled for Saturday, was put back 24 hours because Lingfield's Godstone Road ground is being used for cricket.

"We hope to be at full strength, although anything can happen at training," manager Keith Levett said.

"I saw them (Lingfield) when they played Tunbridge Wells in a friendly and watched them for half an hour. You can't read too much into that because it's always difficult when you're trying out players.

"They played 4-4-2, although some of the time they went with one down the middle.

"That day they didn't keep possession particularly well, but I'm not reading too much into it.

"What we will do is expect them to be well organised and they'll be fitter, but hopefully we'll have a bit more quality."

Even though Sevenoaks is nearer to Lingfield than many teams in the Kent League, this will be something of a step into the unknown for Town, as Levett admitted.

"In my experience the Kent League is usually a bit more physical than it is in Surrey or Sussex," he said. "They tend to play a bit more football, whereas in Kent it's a little more fast and furious, but that's being general."

The winners will play Ryman League amateurs Corinthian Casuals at home next Saturday, and the Town boss says focusing on the job in hand isn't always easy in the FA Cup.

"Obviously for the club financially a cup run would be of enormous benefit," he said.

"We'd love to get through a few rounds and see if we could get a big club, but you can't think too far ahead, and that isn't easy when you've got that in the back of your mind."

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

CUP RUN: Michael Cook should skipper Sevenoaks in Sunday's tie

Webb's appetite whetted after break

BREAKING into the top-five is the target for Danny Webb this weekend as the Moto GP 125cc World Championship heads to the Czech Republic.

The 19-year-old from Tunbridge Wells has consistently finished inside the top-10 this season, but is determined to make further progress at the technical Brno circuit.

Webb is in form after equalling his best finish of the season with a seventh-placed finish at Germany's Sachsenring last time out.

After a four-week break from racing, the Aprilia rider is raring to go again and has set himself a target of a top-five finish.

He said: "I'm pretty bored of finishing in the top 10, so I intend to push even harder so we can try and get in and around the top five or six. If I finish outside of the top-10 in the championship this season then I will be disappointed.

"I've had a bit of a summer break but have been training hard during the last week and I feel in good shape. I'm ready to do some more damage in the championship.

"We had a great ride in Germany as I came all the way from 16th to seventh in the wet. I wasn't able to push as hard as I wanted, but we had a great battle with the factory bikes."

Webb is 11th in the championship standings and a good haul of points this weekend could see him make significant progress up the rankings. Qualifying begins today, with the race taking place at 11am on Sunday.

Picture: DANNYWEBB.COM

RARING TO GO: Danny Webb wants to break into top-five this season

WEST KENT CRICKET PREVIEW

BY STEVE TERVET

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

SEVENOAKS Vine will put significant distance between themselves and the relegation strugglers this afternoon if they can see off Lordswood at the Vine.

The Medway side start the day immediately above the drop zone and six points behind Sevenoaks, whose defeat to Bickley Park last weekend was their third loss in four outings.

Alex Rayner's side lost the corresponding fixture by six wickets at Martyn Grove in June, but Lordswood have slipped down the table since then and Sevenoaks will feel the game is theirs to be won.

Last weekend, the Vine were bowled out for 169 at Bickley Park with John Bowden's 40 at the top of the order the greatest individual contribution.

Park made light work of the run-chase, reaching their target inside 35 overs with Richard Clinton (77) and James Lincoln (59 not out) hitting the bulk of their runs.

DIVISION TWO

THE shock of last Saturday's painful defeat to Dartford should spur Tenterden back into action this afternoon as they seek to maintain control of Division Two.

Bowled out for just 80, Tenterden were handed a six-wicket defeat by the side bidding to break into the top two and pip either them or Broadstairs to promotion.

On paper they could wish for no better opportunity to put things right this afternoon as basement club High Halstow provide the opposition at Morghew Park.

Holmesdale, too, suffered a batting collapse last weekend and today they welcome a Minster side scrapping to stay in the division.

Max Melbourn took 5 for 34 as Holmesdale bowled HSBC out for 128 last Saturday, but his endeavours were in vain as Stuart Brown's side were skittled out for just 102 in reply.

DIVISION THREE

LINDEN Park are back in promotion contention following a fine victory over Addington Village, but an even stiffer task awaits today as they host second-placed Gravesend.

John Harvey's side posted 180 for 8 from their 50 overs at Addington last weekend, with Abhijit Kale top scoring yet again as he hit 56.

Namibia international Ray Van Schoor then scored 49 in Addington's reply, but Ben Entacott and Dominic Lanaway took three wickets apiece as the hosts were bowled out for 142.

Harvey said: "We went over there knowing any slip-up would end our remote hopes of promotion.

"I don't know how they were top of the league because they certainly weren't the same team first time round – maybe we caught them on a bad day.

"We're back in the mix now and Saturday is even bigger.

"Gravesend are second and they're probably the form team at the moment. If we beat them, then I'm confident we can win our remaining games.

"They've got a superstar overseas player (all-rounder Yannick Elliott), but so have we so it should make for good cricket."

Victory for Park would see them climb above Gravesend into second place and take control of their own destiny, with games against Old Colfeians, Bromley Common and Chestfield to come before the season's conclusion.

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE

A TRIP to sixth-placed Westgate-on-Sea is the task for runaway Premier Division leaders Cowdrey this afternoon, as Phil Sullivan's side hunt an 11th consecutive win.

The Tonbridge side crushed Belvedere by 148 runs last weekend, posting 301 for 4 from their 46 overs before bowling the visitors out for 153.

Tonbridge sit third in Championship East and they will be confident of continuing their fine recent form as they face The Mote's 3rd XI, who sit bottom.

In Championship West, Pembury go to RASRA Eagles looking to follow up last Saturday's 29-run victory over Bromley 3rds.

A win today would put further pressure on second-placed Blackheath, who they trail by 16 points.

After 12 games in 1B West without a win, Wrotham (St George's) are now hunting their third success in a row after edging past Petts Wood by three wickets last weekend.

With seventh-placed Nurstead today's opposition, Nick Ward's side may feel they still have a slim chance of climbing out of the bottom two.

PREMIER DIVISION

(P = played, W = won, WD = winning draw, Bat P = batting points, Bow P = bowling points, PTS = total points)

	P	W	L	Bat P	Bow P	PTS
Bromley	14	8	2	14	9	197
St Lawrence	14	8	4	18	10	174
Hartley Country Club	14	7	3	11	9	173
The Mote	14	7	3	16	15	167
Bexley	14	6	6	22	17	155
Bickley Park	14	6	4	8	12	149
Sevenoaks Vine	**14**	**4**	**8**	**22**	**19**	**133**
Lordswood	14	4	4	16	18	127
Tunbridge Wells	**14**	**3**	**9**	**23**	**20**	**113**
Gore Court	14	0	10	31	25	72

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	WD	Bat P	Bow P	PTS
Tenterden	**14**	**9**	**1**	**7**	**14**	**188**
Broadstairs	14	7	0	21	17	176
Dartford	14	7	0	13	11	162
HSBC	14	6	1	22	22	150
Catford and Cyphers	14	5	1	17	19	148
Holmesdale	**14**	**6**	**1**	**8**	**24**	**147**
Hayes	14	3	3	33	29	141
Orpington	14	4	0	18	23	140
Minster	14	6	0	11	15	138
High Halstow	14	2	0	22	20	98

DIVISION THREE

Upchurch	14	7	3	18	17	193
Gravesend	14	7	2	21	18	192
Linden Park	**14**	**7**	**1**	**16**	**14**	**180**
Addington Village	14	7	1	11	17	178
Bromley Common	14	5	2	20	17	158
Old Elthamians	14	5	0	17	23	148
Catford Wanderers	14	4	0	20	21	130
Downham & Bell	14	2	0	31	33	117
Old Colfeians	14	3	0	21	30	116
Chestfield	14	3	0	23	22	114

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	WD	Bonus Pts	Pts
Cowdrey	**14**	**13**	**0**	**62**	**267**
R A C S	15	10	5	85	235
Nonington	14	9	5	81	216
Bobbing Court and LH	14	9	4	67	212
Dartfordians	15	6	8	86	186
Westgate-On-Sea	14	6	7	85	185
Tunbridge Wells 3rd XI	**14**	**5**	**7**	**82**	**177**
Bexley	14	5	9	93	168
Old Brockleians	14	3	9	92	157
Belvedere	14	0	12	54	74

CHAMPIONSHIP EAST

Mersham Sports	14	13	1	65	260
Old Williamsonians	14	8	3	72	222
Tonbridge	**14**	**8**	**5**	**71**	**201**
Frindsbury	14	6	6	84	194
Yalding	14	6	8	96	186
Wye	14	7	6	69	184
Littlebourne	14	6	6	59	169
Sandwich Town	14	5	8	80	165
Blue Bell Hill	14	1	11	85	120
The Mote	14	3	9	50	115

CHAMPIONSHIP WEST

Shooters Hill	14	12	1	68	258
Blackheath	14	9	4	73	218
Pembury	**14**	**9**	**5**	**67**	**202**
Bromley	14	7	5	69	194
Bexley Park	14	7	6	72	187
Dartford	14	6	7	73	173
RASRA Eagles	14	5	8	69	154
Blackheath Wanderers	14	5	9	74	149
Locksbottom	14	3	10	72	127
Wilmington	14	2	10	76	126

DIVISION 1B WEST

New Ifield	14	11	2	76	251
Old Gravesendians	15	8	5	90	230
Petts Wood	14	8	5	79	209
GHS Dartford	15	8	4	74	209
Gravesend	14	8	5	74	204
Swanscombe & G\nthe	14	5	7	68	173
Nurstead	14	5	8	79	164
Bexleyheath	14	6	7	58	158
Wrotham (St George's)	**14**	**2**	**10**	**88**	**138**
Old Elthamians	14	2	10	63	113

TODAY'S LEAGUE FIXTURES

(All games start at 1.30pm unless otherwise stated)

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (noon start): **Sevenoaks Vine** v Lordswood; **Tunbridge Wells** v Bexley

DIVISION TWO (1.15pm start): **Holmesdale** v Minster; **Tenterden** v High Halstow

DIVISION THREE (1.15pm start): **Linden Park** v Gravesend

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Westgate-on-Sea v **Cowdrey**

CHAMPIONSHIP EAST: The Mote 3rd XI v **Tonbridge**

CHAMPIONSHIP WEST: RASRA Eagles v **Pembury**

DIVISION 1B WEST: **Wrotham (St George's)** v Nurstead

Wells to use Bromley as the benchmark

HARD TIMES: An impressive Bromley thrashed Tunbridge Wells (batting) by 188 runs last week

BATTERED and bruised by last week's 188-run defeat at Bromley, Tunbridge Wells go into today's Kent League game with Bexley knowing defeat will drastically reduce their chances of staying in the Premier Division.

Skipper Mark Smith is unavailable for the game at The Nevill, but Richard Cutts, who deputised earlier in the season, could return to the side.

On paper, at least, Bexley should be an easier proposition than Bromley, but when the Wells travelled to Manor Way back in June they made a meagre 173 and lost by five wickets.

The South London side barely broke sweat in beating Gore Court by six wickets last week, with Jibran Khan smashing 75 – seven runs more than the entire Wells team managed against Bromley.

"Bromley are a side of immense depth and you don't just beat the door down at the first attempt, it takes five or six goes," Wells secretary Alan Cutts admitted.

Bromley won the toss and chose to bat, but Chris Lawrence and Chris Fenwick helped reduce them to 29 for 3 after just 10 overs.

It was 63 for 4 when Chris Rainger deflected an Alan Wells drive onto the stumps to run out James Goodman, but that merely brought Chris Harris to the crease.

Wells, who made 105, and Harris put on 137 for the fifth wicket and Bromley closed on 256 for 8.

"You can get three or four of their top order out and then out comes Chris Harris," Cutts reflected.

"They've got former Test players down to number seven and even getting the 'bunny', Ed Giddins out can be hard work."

Not as hard as having to face him, however. Giddins, with 2 for 17, was actually Bromley's least economical bowler, with former Kent man Matt Dennington taking 4 for 31 and Ricardo Anderson 3 for 16 as an under strength Wells, without Smith, Simon Routh, Cutts and Sam Stickler collapsed to an abject 68 all out in just 25 overs.

At one stage the Wells were 6 for 4, but Evert Bekker made an admirable 38 not out to at least restore a veneer of respectability.

"Some of our players were a bit like rabbits in the headlights," Cutts admitted.

"Bromley are awesome and we should learn from them."

Play today starts at noon.

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LARKIN AFTER GOOD CUP RUN

Boss wants club to improve in all knockout competitions

Mile Oak v Tunbridge Wells

FA CUP EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND
KICK-OFF 3PM AT CHALKY ROAD

By **STEVE TERVET**

TUNBRIDGE Wells hit the FA Cup trail this afternoon with a voyage into the unknown as Martin Larkin takes his team to face Sussex League side Mile Oak.

A home tie against Ryman League side Dulwich Hamlet is at stake for today's winners and the importance of the tie is not lost on Larkin, particularly in the light of the Wells' recent cup record.

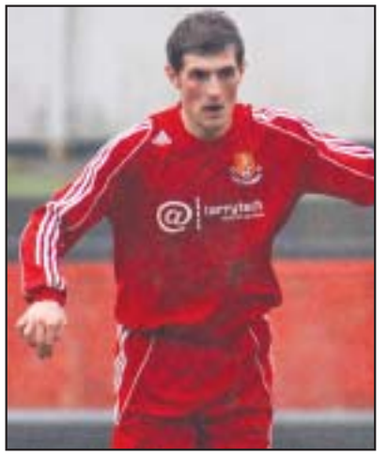
Having crashed out of both the FA Cup and Vase at the first hurdle last season, Larkin is determined to reverse the club's fortunes in knockout football this time around.

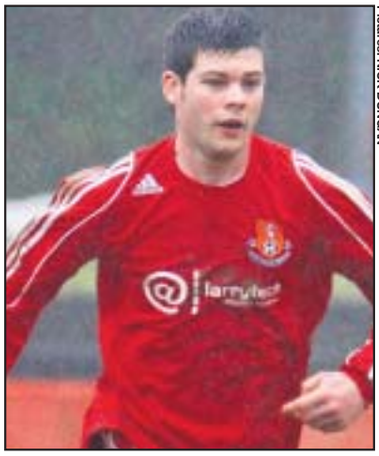
He said: "Winning builds momentum and it can build the fan base as well. If we progress, it's Dulwich Hamlet at home and they're a big, traditional non-league club.

"We'd hope for a big turnout at our ground so it's an important game and we will give Mile Oak the respect they deserve.

"We won't be thinking about what's on offer, but as a club, it's important to win cup matches this year. There's nothing better for raising awareness than an FA Cup run – everyone understands it, whereas they maybe don't understand the Kent League."

The Wells' season began with a goalless draw at home to Beckenham Town in the Kent League last Saturday, a result which left the manager satisfied, but with plenty of food for thought.





Pictures: NICK DUNGAN

TEAM PLAYERS: Andy McMath (left) and Keelan Mooney (right) will start today's FA Cup tie

Having opened with a 6-0 thrashing of Sporting Bengal United a year ago, Larkin saw his side produce a gritty display to keep the visitors at bay, but admitted the Wells looked short of ideas in attack.

Benji Agana left the field after only 16 minutes due to injury before his replacement, Matt Foreman, suffered cartilage damage to his knee 22 minutes later and had to make way for Ben Palmer.

The Wells bench then believed Tom Davey had broken a bone in his hand after a collision with Scott Whibley, but a scan revealed only burst blood vessels.

Andy McMath, unavailable last Saturday, returns to replace Davey today, while Keelan Mooney is set to go straight into the starting line-up after signing on dual-registration from Maidstone United.

Larkin said: "Defensively, we've done a lot of work with the back-four to make sure we get tight so I was delighted with that aspect. We didn't do a lot going the other way, although we had three very good chances. Last year we'd have lost that game so I'm pleased."

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